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(57) Abstract			
<p>The present invention relates to the expression of various forms of a novel receptor in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. A variant form of this receptor has been detected in brain cells and shown to bind to the <i>obese</i> gene product, leptin. In particular, the present invention relates to methods of using leptin to stimulate the growth and development of receptor-positive hematopoietic and endothelial cells <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i>. In addition, this receptor is selectively expressed in hematopoietic progenitor cells with long-term repopulating potential. Thus, agents that specifically bind to this receptor may be used to identify and isolate progenitor cells for a variety of clinical applications.</p>			

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**METHODS FOR USING THE OBESE GENE AND ITS GENE PRODUCT  
TO STIMULATE HEMATOPOIETIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

The present invention relates to the expression of various forms of a novel receptor in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. A variant form of this receptor has been detected in brain cells and shown to bind to the obese gene product, leptin. In particular, the present invention relates to methods of using leptin to stimulate the growth and development of receptor-positive hematopoietic and endothelial cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*. In addition, this receptor is selectively expressed in hematopoietic progenitor cells with long-term repopulating potential. Thus, agents that specifically bind to this receptor may be used to identify and isolate progenitor cells for a variety of clinical applications.

20

**2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**2.1. HEMATOPOIETIN RECEPTOR GENE FAMILY**

A variety of diseases, including malignancy and immunodeficiency, are related to malfunction within the lympho-hematopoietic system. Some of these conditions could be alleviated and/or cured by repopulating the hematopoietic system with progenitor cells, which when triggered to differentiate would overcome the patient's deficiency. Therefore, the ability to initiate and regulate hematopoiesis is of great importance (McCune et al., 1988, *Science* 241:1632).

The process of blood cell formation, by which a small number of self-renewing stem cells give rise to lineage specific progenitor cells that subsequently undergo proliferation and differentiation to produce the mature circulating blood cells has been shown to be at least in part regulated by specific hormones. These hormones are

collectively known as hematopoietic growth factors or cytokines (Metcalf, 1985, *Science* 229:16; Dexter, 1987, *J. Cell Sci.* 88:1; Golde and Gasson, 1988, *Scientific American*, July:62; Tabbara and Robinson, 1991, *Anti-Cancer Res.* 11:81; 5 Ogawa, 1989, *Environ. Health Persp.* 80:199; Dexter, 1989, *Br. Med. Bull.* 45:337).

With the advent of recombinant DNA technology, the genes encoding a number of these molecules have now been molecularly cloned and expressed in recombinant form (Souza 10 et al., 1986, *Science* 232:61; Gough et al., 1984, *Nature* 309:763; Yokota et al., 1984, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 81:1070; Kawasaki et al., 1985, *Science* 230:291). These cytokines have been studied in their structure, biology and even therapeutic potential. Some of the most well 15 characterized factors include erythropoietin (EPO), stem cell factor (SCF) or steel factor, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), the interleukins (IL-1 to IL-15) and thrombopoietin 20 (TPO).

These cytokines act on different cell types at different stages during blood cell development, and their potential uses in medicine are far-reaching which include blood transfusions, bone marrow transplantation, correcting 25 immunosuppressive disorders, cancer therapy, wound healing, and activation of the immune response (Golde and Gasson, 1988, *Scientific American*, July:62).

Apart from inducing proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor cells, such cytokines have also been 30 shown to activate a number of functions of mature blood cells (Stanley et al., 1976, *J. Exp. Med.* 143:631; Schrader et al., 1981, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 78:323; Moore et al., 1980, *J. Immunol.* 125:1302; Kurland et al., 1979, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 76:2326; Handman and Burgess, 1979, *J. 35 Immunol.* 122:1134; Vadas et al., 1983, *Blood* 61:1232; Vadas et al., 1983, *J. Immunol.* 130:795), including influencing the

migration of mature hematopoietic cells (Weibart et al., 1986, *J. Immunol.* 137:3584).

Cytokines exert their effects on target cells by binding to specific cell surface receptors. A number of cytokine receptors have been identified and the genes encoding them molecularly cloned. Several cytokine receptors have recently been classified into a hematopoietin receptor (HR) superfamily. The grouping of these receptors was based on the conservation of key amino acid motifs in the 10 extracellular domains (Bazan, 1990, *Immunology Today* 11:350). The HR family is defined by three conserved motifs in the extracellular domain of its members. The first is a Trp-Ser-X-Trp-Ser (WSXWS box) motif which is highly conserved and located amino-terminal to the transmembrane domain. Most 15 members of the HR family contain this motif. The second consists of four conserved cysteine residues located in the amino-terminal half of the extracellular region. The third is that both the conserved cysteines and the WSXWS box are found within two separate conserved fibronectin Type III (FN 20 III) domains. The members of the HR family include receptors for ligands such as EPO, G-CSF (Fukunaga, 1990, *Cell* 61:341), GM-CSF, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-2 ( $\beta$ -subunit), IL-12, IL-13, IL-15 and LIF (Cosman, 1990, *TIBS* 15:265).

Ligands for the HR are critically involved in the 25 proliferation, maturation and differentiation of blood cells. For example, IL-3 promotes the proliferation of early multilineage pluripotent stem cells, and synergizes with EPO to produce red cells. IL-6 and IL-3 synergize to induce proliferation of early hematopoietic precursors. GM-CSF has 30 been shown to induce the proliferation of granulocytes as well as increase macrophage function. IL-7 is a bone marrow-derived cytokine that plays a role in producing immature T and B lymphocytes. IL-4 induces proliferation of antigen-primed B cells and antigen-specific T cells. Thus, members 35 of this receptor superfamily are involved in the regulation of the hematopoietic system.

## 2.2. THE OBESE GENE, GENE PRODUCT AND ITS RECEPTOR

In order to study the molecular mechanism of weight regulation, Zhang et al. (1994, *Nature* 372:425-432) cloned the mouse *obese* (*ob*) gene from *ob/ob* mice, which contain a 5 single nucleotide mutation resulting in an obese phenotype. When an isolated gene fragment was used as a probe, it was shown to hybridize with RNA only in white adipose tissue by northern blot analysis, but not with RNA in any other tissue. In addition, the coding sequence of the *ob* gene hybridized to 10 all vertebrate genomic DNAs tested, indicating a high level of conservation of this molecule among vertebrates. The deduced amino acid sequences are 84% identical between human and mouse, and both molecules contain features of secreted proteins.

15 In an effort to understand the physiologic function of the *ob* gene, several independent research groups produced recombinant *ob* gene product in bacteria for *in vivo* testing (Pelleymounter et al., 1995, *Science* 269:540-543; Halaas et al., 1995, *Science* 269:543-546; Campfield et al., 1995, 20 *Science* 269:546-549). When the OB protein (also known as leptin) was injected into grossly obese mice, which possessed two mutant copies of the *ob* gene, the mice exhibited a reduced appetite and began to lose weight. More importantly, Campfield et al. (1995, *Science* 269:546-549) injected leptin 25 directly into lateral ventricle, and observed that the animals reduced their food intake, suggesting that leptin acts on central neuronal networks to regulate feeding behavior and energy expenditure. This result also provided evidence that leptin-responsive cells might reside in the 30 brain.

Recently, a leptin fusion protein was generated and used to screen for a leptin receptor (OB-R) in a cDNA expression library prepared from mouse choroid plexus, a tissue that lines brain cavities termed ventricles (Tartaglia et al., 35 1995, *Cell* 83:1263-1271). This approach led to the cloning of one form of the OB-R coding sequence, which reveals a single membrane-spanning receptor, sharing structural

similarities with several Class I cytokine receptors, such as the gp130 signal-transducing component of the IL-6 receptor (Taga et al., 1989, *Cell* 58:573-581), the G-CSF receptor (Fukunaga et al., 1990, *Cell* 61:341-350), and the leukemia 5 inhibitory factor receptor (Gearing et al., 1991, *EMBO J.* 10:2839-2848). Northern blot analysis and reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) demonstrate that OB-R mRNA is expressed in several tissues, including lung, kidney, total brain and hypothalamus, but there was no 10 report on the expression of OB-R in hematopoietic tissues.

The mouse OB-R isolated by Tartaglia, et al., contains a relatively short intracellular cytoplasmic domain as compared with other Class I cytokine receptors. Subsequently, when its human homolog was isolated from a human infant brain 15 library, its predicted protein sequence contains a much longer intracellular domain. In view of this finding, it was speculated that different forms of the receptor might exist (Barinaga, 1996, *Science* 271:29). However, prior to the present invention, no alternative forms of the OB-R had been 20 identified.

### 3. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to methods for using Hu-B1.219 variants (including OB-R) as markers for the 25 identification and isolation of progenitor cells in the hematopoietic and endothelial lineages, and methods for using the ob gene and its gene product, leptin, to stimulate hematopoietic and endothelial growth and development.

The invention is based, in part, on the Applicants' 30 discovery of three forms of a novel member of the HR family, designated Hu-B1.219, which have been isolated from a human fetal liver cDNA library. Sequence comparison of these molecules with a human OB-R sequence (Tartaglia et al., 1995, *Cell* 83:1263-1271) shows that they are nearly identical in 35 their extracellular domains. Therefore, these four molecules represent variant forms of the receptor that respond to leptin as a ligand. While the three isoforms described

herein differ from the reported OB-R protein at only three amino acid positions in the extracellular domain, all four variants contain extensive differences in their intracellular domains at their 3' ends. Thus, although these receptors bind to leptin, they may transduce different signals upon ligand binding. In addition, Hu-B1.219 is expressed in several cell lines of hematopoietic and endothelial origin. Tissue expression analysis demonstrates that fetal lung and liver also contain high levels of its mRNA. Moreover, human CD34<sup>+</sup> bone marrow cells express Hu-B1.219. When mouse fetal liver cells are separated into several fractions based on their expression of AA4.1 and FcR, the expression of the mouse homolog of Hu-B1.219 is detected exclusively in the AA4.1<sup>+</sup>/FcR<sup>+</sup> population, which has been shown to contain most if not all of the long-term repopulating hematopoietic progenitor cells at this stage of fetal liver development. Furthermore, bone marrow and fetal liver cells proliferate and differentiate in response to leptin stimulation by producing erythroid colony-forming units (CFU-e), erythroid burst-forming units (BFU-e) and granulocyte-macrophage (CFU-GM) colonies. In particular, leptin stimulates cells of the myeloid lineage to develop into macrophages and neutrophils. Leptin also stimulates freshly isolated murine yolk sac cells to proliferate, and produce erythroid and macrophage growth. Additionally, Hu-B1.219 is expressed in some endothelial cells and their precursors as they are derived from the embryonic yolk sac. Therefore, Hu-B1.219 is a marker for hematopoietic and endothelial progenitor cells, and its various isoforms confer responsiveness to leptin stimulation.

A wide variety of uses are encompassed in the present invention, including but not limited to, the use of Hu-B1.219-specific binding agents to identify and isolate hematopoietic and endothelial progenitor cells, the use of leptin to activate such progenitor cells for in vitro or ex vivo expansion, the use of leptin for in vivo stimulation of the same cell populations in patients with immunodeficiency

and anemia, the use of leptin to promote myeloid growth and development, and the use of leptin to promote angiogenesis and vasculogenesis, as well as augmentation of donor cell engraftment following bone marrow transplantation.

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4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1A-1E Nucleotide sequence and deduced amino acid sequence of Form 1 of Hu-B1.219. The 3' end of this molecule is 98% identical to a human retrotransposon sequence.

10 Figure 2. Nucleotide Sequence comparison between Hu-B1.219 Form 1, Form 2 and Form 3 at the 3' end.

15 Figure 3A-3C Amino acid comparison between Hu-B1.219 Forms 1 (HuB1.219-1), 2 (HuB1.219-2), 3 (HuB1.219-3), human OB-R (HuOBR) and murine OB-R (MuOBR).

20 Figure 4. Human adult multiple tissue northern blots are carried out with a probe derived from the extracellular domain of Hu-B1.219 according to the manufacturer's instructions (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA).

25 Figure 5A and 5B. PCR analysis of Hu-B1.219 expression in human CD34<sup>+</sup> and CD34<sup>-</sup> cells. Figure 5A is detected with Hu-B1.219 primers, whereas Figure 5B is detected with CD34 primers. BMMNC represents bone marrow mononuclear cells as positive controls.

30 35 Figure 6A and 6B. PCR analysis of murine Hu-B1.219 expression in mouse fetal liver subpopulations separated by antibodies to AA4.1 and FcR. Figure 6A is

detected with Hu-B1.219 primers, whereas Figure 6B is detected with CD34 primers. NS represents non-sorted cells and BM represents bone marrow cells as controls.

5

Figure 7A-F. Expression of Hu-B1.219 isoforms in hematopoietic tissues: differentiating ES cells from d0-d6 (7A and B); yolk sac cells from d8-d14 embryos (7C and D); and fetal liver from d13-d18 embryos (7E-F). Expression was detected by RT-PcR.

10

Figure 8A and B. Leptin stimulates yolk sac (8A) and fetal liver (8B) cell proliferation.

15

Figure 9A-C. Leptin induces murine fetal liver to form myeloid colonies in colony assays.

20

Figure 10A-C. Leptin induces murine adult bone marrow to form myeloid colonies in colony assays.

25

Figure 11A and B. Leptin induces embryo body (EB)-derived precursors to form colonies. EB-derived precursors (d6) were replated into MeC with 100 ng/ml of steel factor and 200 ng/ml of leptin.

30

Figure 12A and B. Leptin and EPO induce CFU-e from normal mouse bone marrow, but not db/db bone marrow. Age matched mice from normal and db/db strains are used as marrow donors for erythroid colony forming assays containing low serum concentration.

35

Figure 13. Leptin induces CFU-e from human bone marrow in colony forming assays. All groups contain

saturating levels of recombinant EPO at 2 U/ml.

5. **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

5       **5.1. EXPRESSION OF THE OB-R  
IN HEMATOPOIETIC CELLS**

The present invention relates to a novel hematopoietic progenitor cell marker and its use for cell identification and isolation, as well as the use of leptin to stimulate hematopoietic and endothelial development via this receptor known as Hu-B1.219. In a specific embodiment by way of example in Section 6, *infra*, several forms of this receptor were cloned and characterized. Amino acid sequence comparison of these related molecules with a published human OB-R sequence (Tartaglia et al., 1995, *Cell* 83:1263-1271) reveals only three amino acid differences in their extracellular domains but extensive diversity in their cytoplasmic domains. More specifically, Figure 1A-1E shows that in the Hu-B1.219 molecules described herein, nucleotide residues #349-351 encode alanine, nucleotide residues #421-423 encode arginine and nucleotide residues #763-765 encode arginine. Additionally, the four forms diverge both in length and sequence composition from nucleotide residue #2771 and beyond. In this regard, the cytoplasmic domain of Form 1 of Hu-B1.219 described herein is highly homologous to a retrotransposon sequence (Ono et al., 1987, *Nucl. Acid. Res.* 15:8725-8737).

Analysis of the Hu-B1.219 variants reveals significant homology to the FN III domain of the HR family indicating that they belong to the HR family of receptors. Northern blot hybridization and RT-PCR analyses indicates that Hu-B1.219 mRNA is highly expressed in cells of hematopoietic and endothelial origin. In addition, the Hu-B1.219 sequence is expressed in certain fetal tissues and tumor cell lines. Hence, in addition to its expression in the brain for weight regulation by leptin, Hu-B1.219 (or OB-R) is expressed by

hematopoietic and endothelial cells, thereby rendering these cells responsive to the action of leptin.

Since additional variant forms of the molecule may exist, they can be identified by labeled DNA probes made from 5 nucleic acid fragments corresponding to any portion of the cDNA disclosed herein in a cDNA library prepared from human fetal liver, human lung, human kidney, human choroid plexus, human hypothalamus, human prostate and human ovary. More specifically, oligonucleotides corresponding to either the 5' 10 or 3' terminus of the cDNA sequence may be used to obtain longer nucleotide sequences. Briefly, the library may be plated out to yield a maximum of 30,000 pfu for each 150 mm plate. Approximately 40 plates may be screened. The plates are incubated at 37°C until the plaques reach a diameter of 15 0.25 mm or are just beginning to make contact with one another (3-8 hours). Nylon filters are placed onto the soft top agarose and after 60 seconds, the filters are peeled off and floated on a DNA denaturing solution consisting of 0.4N sodium hydroxide. The filters are then immersed in 20 neutralizing solution consisting of 1M Tris HCL, pH 7.5, before being allowed to air dry. The filters are prehybridized in casein hybridization buffer containing 10% dextran sulfate, 0.5M NaCl, 50mM Tris HCL, pH 7.5, 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 1% casein, 1% SDS, and denatured salmon 25 sperm DNA at 0.5 mg/ml for 6 hours at 60°C. The radiolabelled probe is then denatured by heating to 95°C for 2 minutes and then added to the prehybridization solution containing the filters. The filters are hybridized at 60°C for 16 hours. The filters are then washed in 1X wash mix 30 (10X wash mix contains 3M NaCl, 0.6M Tris base, and 0.02M EDTA) twice for 5 minutes each at room temperature, then in 1X wash mix containing 1% SDS at 60°C for 30 minutes, and finally in 0.3X wash mix containing 0.1% SDS at 60°C for 30 minutes. The filters are then air dried and exposed to x-ray 35 film for autoradiography. After developing, the film is aligned with the filters to select a positive plaque. If a single, isolated positive plaque cannot be obtained, the agar

plug containing the plaques will be removed and placed in lambda dilution buffer containing 0.1M NaCl, 0.01M magnesium sulfate, 0.035M Tris HCl, pH 7.5, 0.01% gelatin. The phage may then be replated and rescreened to obtain single, well isolated positive plaques. Positive plaques may be isolated and the cDNA clones sequenced using primers based on the known cDNA sequence. This step may be repeated until a full length cDNA is obtained.

One method for identifying all 3' isoforms is to PCR amplify the 3' ends of the variant cDNA from a variety of tissues including but not limiting to, choroid plexus, hypothalamus, fetal liver, bone marrow, ovary, or prostate. To obtain the 3' end of the cDNA, an oligo-dT primer is used to synthesize the cDNA first strand. Hu-B1.219 specific primers from the conserved region of the gene (e.g. up stream of nucleotide 2770) and oligo-dT are then used to amplify the 3' end. The PCR fragments are cloned and sequenced by standard techniques. Once obtained, these sequences may be translated into amino acid sequence and examined for certain landmarks such as continuous open reading frame, regulatory regions that associate with tyrosine kinase activation, and finally overall structural similarity to known variants.

### 5.2. Hu-B1.219 AS A PROGENITOR CELL MARKER

Hu-B1.219 is expressed in cells of hematopoietic and endothelial origin. In a specific embodiment by way of example in Section 7, infra, Hu-B1.219 is expressed in early progenitor cells, and in a small percentage of progenitors with long-term repopulating potential. In order to utilize Hu-B1.219 receptor as a marker for cell identification and isolation, specific binding agents such as antibodies may be generated to the protein.

#### 5.2.1. GENERATION OF ANTIBODIES

Various procedures known in the art may be used for the production of antibodies to epitopes of natural or recombinant Hu-B1.219 receptor. Such antibodies include but

are not limited to polyclonal, monoclonal, chimeric, single chain, Fab fragments and fragments produced by an Fab expression library. Neutralizing antibodies i.e., those which compete for the ligand binding site of the receptor are 5 especially preferred for diagnostics and therapeutics.

Monoclonal antibodies that bind Hu-B1.219 may be radioactively labeled allowing one to follow their location and distribution in the body after injection. Radioisotope tagged antibodies may be used as a non-invasive diagnostic 10 tool for imaging *de novo* cells of tumors and metastases as well as fetal tissues.

Immunotoxins may also be designed which target cytotoxic agents to specific sites in the body. For example, high affinity Hu-B1.219 specific monoclonal antibodies may be 15 covalently complexed to bacterial or plant toxins, such as diphtheria toxin, or ricin. A general method of preparation of antibody/hybrid molecules may involve use of thiol-crosslinking reagents such as SPDP, which attack the primary amino groups on the antibody and by disulfide exchange, 20 attach the toxin to the antibody. The hybrid antibodies may be used to specifically eliminate Hu-B1.219 expressing tumor cells.

For the production of antibodies, various host animals may be immunized by injection with the Hu-B1.219 protein, 25 fragments thereof or synthetic peptides, including but not limited to rabbits, mice, rats, hamsters etc. Various adjuvants may be used to increase the immunological response, depending on the host species, including but not limited to Freund's (complete and incomplete), mineral gels such as 30 aluminum hydroxide, surface active substances such as lysolecithin, pluronic polyols, polyanions, peptides, oil emulsions, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, dinitrophenol, and potentially useful human adjuvants such as BCG (bacilli Calmette-Guerin) and *Corynebacterium parvum*.

35 Monoclonal antibodies to Hu-B1.219 may be prepared by using any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture.

These include but are not limited to the hybridoma technique originally described by Kohler and Milstein, (*Nature*, 1975, 256:495-497), the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kosbor et al., 1983, *Immunology Today*, 4:72; Cote et al., 1983, 5 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 80:2026-2030) and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Cole et al., 1985, *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96). In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies" (Morrison et al., 1984, *Proc. Natl. 10 Acad. Sci. USA*, 81:6851-6855; Neuberger et al., 1984, *Nature* 312:604-608; Takeda et al., 1985, *Nature* 314:452-454) by splicing the genes from a mouse antibody molecule of appropriate antigen specificity together with genes from a human antibody molecule of appropriate biological activity 15 can be used. Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Patent 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce Hu-B1.219-specific single chain antibodies.

Antibody fragments which contain specific binding sites 20 of Hu-B1.219 may be generated by known techniques. For example, such fragments include but are not limited to, the F(ab'),<sub>2</sub> fragments which can be produced by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecule and the Fab fragments which can be generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of the F(ab'),<sub>2</sub> 25 fragments. Alternatively, Fab expression libraries may be constructed (Huse et al., 1989, *Science* 246:1275-1281) to allow rapid and easy identification of monoclonal Fab fragments with the desired specificity to Hu-B1.219.

30        **5.2.2. PROGENITOR CELL SEPARATION**

Human hematopoietic progenitor cells may be isolated using an antibody to Hu-B1.219 protein, a leptin ligand, a leptin peptide containing the receptor-binding domain or a leptin fusion protein using conventional cell separation 35 methods well known in the art. Such Hu-B1.219-specific binding agents may be used in combination with other agents such as anti-CD34 antibodies.

Although bone marrow is the preferred cell source, other physiologic sources of hematopoietic cells may be utilized, for example, the spleen, thymus, peripheral blood, cytokine-mobilized blood, umbilical cord blood, embryonic yolk sac, or 5 fetal liver. Bone marrow is preferably removed from the iliac crest, but may also be removed from other bone cavity. Bone marrow may be removed from bone cavity by various methods well known to those skilled in the art, including flushing the bone with a mixture of physiological media, 10 balanced salt solution, physiological buffer, and other naturally occurring factors. Typically, the bone marrow is filtered, centrifuged and resuspended.

Once a source of hematopoietic cells is obtained, hematopoietic progenitor cells may be separated from the cell 15 mixture by various methods which utilize an agent such as a specific antibody or a leptin ligand which specifically binds to cell surface Hu-B1.219-encoded receptor protein. These techniques may include, for example, flow cytometry using a fluorescence activated cell sorter (FACS) and specific 20 fluorochromes, biotin-avidin or biotin-streptavidin separations using biotin conjugated to cell surface marker-specific antibodies and avidin or streptavidin bound to a solid support such as affinity column matrix or plastic surfaces, magnetic separations using antibody-coated magnetic 25 beads, destructive separations such as antibody and complement or antibody bound to cytotoxins or radioactive isotopes.

Separation of a cell mixture via antibodies may be performed by negative or positive selection procedures. In 30 negative separation, antibodies are used which are specific for markers present on undesired hematopoietic cells. Cells bound by an antibody may be removed or lysed and the remaining desired mixture retained. In positive separation, antibodies specific for Hu-B1.219 or leptin ligand may be 35 used. Cells bound by the antibody or leptin are separated and retained. It will be understood that positive and negative separations may be used substantially simultaneously

or in a sequential manner. It will also be understood that the present invention encompasses any separation technique which can isolate cells based on the expression of Hu-B1.219 as disclosed herein. For example, a cell mixture may be 5 separated into CD34<sup>+</sup> and CD34<sup>-</sup> fractions first followed by Hu-B1.219-specific separation.

At present, the most common technique for antibody-based separation has been the use of flow cytometry such as by a FACS. Typically, separation by flow cytometry is performed 10 as follows. The suspended mixture of hematopoietic cells are centrifuged and resuspended in media. Antibodies which are conjugated to fluorochrome are added to allow the binding of the antibodies to specific cell surface markers. The cell mixture is then washed by one or more centrifugation and 15 resuspension steps. The mixture is run through FACS which separates the cells based on different fluorescence characteristics. FACS systems are available in varying levels of performance and ability, including multi-color analysis. The cells can be identified by a characteristic 20 profile of forward and side scatter which is influenced by size and granularity, as well as by positive and/or negative expression of certain cell surface markers.

Other separation techniques besides flow cytometry may provide for faster separations. One such method is biotin- 25 avidin based separation by affinity chromatography.

Typically, such a technique is performed by incubating the washed hematopoietic cells with biotin-coupled leptin or antibodies to specific markers followed by passage through an avidin column. Biotin-antibody-cell or biotin-leptin-cell 30 complexes bind to the column via the biotin-avidin interaction, while other cells pass through the column. Finally, the column-bound cells may be released by perturbation or other methods. The specificity of the biotin-avidin system is well suited for rapid positive 35 separation.

Flow cytometry and biotin-avidin techniques provide highly specific means of cell separation. If desired, a

cells, B cells, natural killer cells, and plasmacytoid dendritic cells, as well as minor cell populations including megakaryocytes, mast cells, eosinophils, and basophils. Desirably, at least about 70% and usually at least about 80% of the total 10 hematopoietic cells present can be removed.

A preferred initial separation technique is density-gradient separation. Here, the bone marrow or other hematopoietic cell mixture preparation is centrifuged and the supernatant removed. The cells are resuspended in, for 15 example, RPMI 1640 medium (Gibco) with 10% FCS and placed in a density gradient prepared with, for example, "FICOLL" or "PERCOLL" or "EUROCOLLINS" media. The separation may then be performed by centrifugation or automatically with a Cobel & Cell Separator '2991 (Cobe, Lakewood, Colorado). Additional 20 separation procedures may be desirable depending on the source of the hematopoietic cell mixture and its content. For example, if blood is used as a source of hematopoietic cells, it may be desirable to lyse red blood cells prior to the separation of any fraction. Furthermore, elutriation may 25 also be used alone or in combination with all of other purification procedures described herein (Noga et al., 1990, Prog. Clin. Biol. Res. 333:345; Noga et al., 1992, Prog. Clin. Biol. Res. 377:411).

### 30        5.3. THE OBESE GENE PRODUCT, LEPTIN

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences of both human and mouse leptin have been published recently by Zhang et al. (1994, Nature 372:425-432). Thereafter, the mouse coding sequence was used to express functional leptin in *E. coli* 35 (Pelleymounter et al., 1995, Science 269:540-543; Halaas et al., 1995, Science 269:543-546; Campfield et al., 1995, Science 269:546-549). Furthermore, human leptin was also

expressed and shown to be biologically active in murine experiments (Halaas et al., 1995, *Science* 269:543-546). Hence, human, murine and homologous coding sequences from other species may be expressed, and the recombinant protein 5 purified by conventional techniques such as affinity chromatography with an antibody. Alternatively, natural protein may be directly purified from cells that secrete leptin, such as adipose cell lines.

10

### 5.3.1. EXPRESSION OF LEPTIN PROTEIN

For the practice of the present invention, human and mouse leptin polynucleotide sequences which encode the proteins, peptide fragments, fusion proteins or functional equivalents thereof, may be used to generate recombinant DNA 15 molecules that direct their expression in appropriate host cells.

Due to the inherent degeneracy of the genetic code, other DNA sequences which encode substantially the same or a functionally equivalent amino acid sequence, may be used in 20 the practice of the invention for the cloning and expression of the leptin protein. In particular, such DNA sequences include those which are capable of hybridizing to the human leptin sequences under stringent conditions.

Altered DNA sequences which may be used in accordance 25 with the invention include deletions, additions or substitutions of different nucleotide residues resulting in a sequence that encodes the same or a functionally equivalent gene product. The gene product itself may contain deletions, additions or substitutions of amino acid residues within a 30 coding sequence, which result in a silent change thus producing a functionally equivalent leptin protein. Such amino acid substitutions may be made on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues involved. For 35 example, negatively charged amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid; positively charged amino acids include lysine, histidine and arginine; amino acids with uncharged

polar head groups having similar hydrophilicity values include the following: glycine, asparagine, glutamine, serine, threonine, tyrosine; and amino acids with nonpolar head groups include alanine, valine, isoleucine, leucine, 5 phenylalanine, proline, methionine, tryptophan.

The DNA sequences of leptin may be engineered in order to alter the coding sequence for a variety of ends including but not limited to alterations which modify processing and expression of the gene product. For example, mutations may 10 be introduced using techniques which are well known in the art, e.g., site-directed mutagenesis, to insert new restriction sites, to alter glycosylation patterns, phosphorylation, etc.

In another embodiment of the invention, a leptin or a 15 modified leptin sequence may be ligated to a heterologous sequence to encode a fusion protein. It may also be useful to encode a chimeric leptin protein expressing a heterologous epitope that is recognized by a commercially available antibody. A fusion protein may also be engineered to contain 20 a cleavage site located between a leptin sequence and the heterologous protein sequence, so that the leptin protein may be cleaved away from the heterologous moiety.

In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the coding sequence of leptin could be synthesized in whole or in part, 25 using chemical methods well known in the art. See, for example, Caruthers et al., 1980, *Nuc. Acids Res. Symp. Ser.* 7:215-233; Crea and Horn, 1980, *Nuc. Acids Res.* 9(10):2331; Matteucci and Caruthers, 1980, *Tetrahedron Letters* 21:719; and Chow and Kempe, 1981, *Nuc. Acids Res.* 9(12):2807-2817. 30 Alternatively, the protein itself could be produced using chemical methods to synthesize leptin amino acid sequence in whole or in part. For example, peptides can be synthesized by solid phase techniques, cleaved from the resin, and purified by preparative high performance liquid 35 chromatography. (e.g., see Creighton, 1983, *Proteins Structures And Molecular Principles*, W.H. Freeman and Co., N.Y. pp. 50-60). The composition of the synthetic peptides

may be confirmed by amino acid analysis or sequencing (e.g., the Edman degradation procedure; see Creighton, 1983, *Proteins, Structures and Molecular Principles*, W.H. Freeman and Co., N.Y., pp. 34-49).

5        In order to express a biologically active leptin protein, the nucleotide sequence coding for leptin, or a functional equivalent, is inserted into an appropriate expression vector, i.e., a vector which contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of  
10 the inserted coding sequence. The leptin gene products as well as host cells or cell lines transfected or transformed with recombinant leptin expression vectors can be used for a variety of purposes.

15        **5.3.2. EXPRESSION SYSTEMS FOR LEPTIN**

Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct expression vectors containing the leptin coding sequence and appropriate transcriptional/translational control signals. These methods include in vitro recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques and in vivo recombination/genetic recombination. See, for example, the techniques described in Sambrook et al., 1989, *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, N.Y. and Ausubel et al., 1989, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Greene Publishing Associates and Wiley Interscience, N.Y.

A variety of host-expression vector systems may be utilized to express the leptin coding sequence. These include but are not limited to microorganisms such as  
30 bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage DNA, plasmid DNA or cosmid DNA expression vectors containing the leptin coding sequence; yeast transformed with recombinant yeast expression vectors containing the leptin coding sequence; insect cell systems infected with recombinant virus  
35 expression vectors (e.g., baculovirus) containing the leptin coding sequence; plant cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (e.g., cauliflower mosaic virus,

CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or transformed with recombinant plasmid expression vectors (e.g., Ti plasmid) containing the leptin coding sequence; or animal cell systems.

- 5       The expression elements of these systems vary in their strength and specificities. Depending on the host/vector system utilized, any of a number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, may be used in the expression vector.
- 10      For example, when cloning in bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as pL of bacteriophage  $\lambda$ , plac, ptrp, ptac (ptrp-lac hybrid promoter) and the like may be used; when cloning in insect cell systems, promoters such as the baculovirus polyhedrin promoter may be used; when cloning in
- 15      plant cell systems, promoters derived from the genome of plant cells (e.g., heat shock promoters; the promoter for the small subunit of RUBISCO; the promoter for the chlorophyll  $\alpha/\beta$  binding protein) or from plant viruses (e.g., the 35S RNA promoter of CaMV; the coat protein promoter of TMV) may be
- 20      used; when cloning in mammalian cell systems, promoters derived from the genome of mammalian cells (e.g., metallothionein promoter) or from mammalian viruses (e.g., the adenovirus late promoter; the vaccinia virus 7.5K promoter) may be used; when generating cell lines that
- 25      contain multiple copies of the leptin DNA, SV40-, BPV- and EBV-based vectors may be used with an appropriate selectable marker.

In bacterial systems a number of expression vectors may be advantageously selected depending upon the use intended

30      for the leptin expressed. For example, when large quantities of leptin are to be produced for the generation of antibodies or to screen peptide libraries, vectors which direct the expression of high levels of fusion protein products that are readily purified may be desirable. Such vectors include but

35      are not limited to the *E. coli* expression vector PUR278 (Ruther et al., 1983, EMBO J. 2:1791), in which the leptin coding sequence may be ligated into the vector in frame with

the lac Z coding region so that a hybrid AS-lac Z protein is produced; pIN vectors (Inouye & Inouye, 1985, *Nucleic acids Res.* 13:3101-3109; Van Heeke & Schuster, 1989, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:5503-5509); and the like. pGEX vectors may also be used 5 to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. The pGEX 10 vectors are designed to include thrombin or factor Xa protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety.

In yeast, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters may be used. For a review see, *Current 15 Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Vol. 2, 1988, Ed. Ausubel et al., Greene Publish. Assoc. & Wiley Interscience, Ch. 13; Grant et al., 1987, *Expression and Secretion Vectors for Yeast*, *Methods in Enzymology*, Eds. Wu & Grossman, 1987, Acad. Press, N.Y., Vol. 153, pp. 516-544; Glover, 1986, *DNA 20 Cloning*, Vol. II, IRL Press, Wash., D.C., Ch. 3; and Bitter, 1987, *Heterologous Gene Expression in Yeast*, *Methods in Enzymology*, Eds. Berger & Kimmel, Acad. Press, N.Y., Vol. 152, pp. 673-684; and *The Molecular Biology of the Yeast Saccharomyces*, 1982, Eds. Strathern et al., Cold Spring 25 Harbor Press, Vols. I and II.

In cases where plant expression vectors are used, the expression of the leptin coding sequence may be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S RNA and 19S RNA promoters of CaMV (Brisson et al., 30 1984, *Nature* 310:511-514), or the coat protein promoter of TMV (Takamatsu et al., 1987, *EMBO J.* 6:307-311) may be used; alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO (Coruzzi et al., 1984, *EMBO J.* 3:1671-1680; Broglie et al., 1984, *Science* 224:838-843); or heat shock promoters, 35 e.g., soybean hsp17.5-E or hsp17.3-B (Gurley et al., 1986, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 6:559-565) may be used. These constructs can be introduced into plant cells using Ti plasmids, Ri

plasmids, plant virus vectors, direct DNA transformation, microinjection, electroporation, etc. For reviews of such techniques see, for example, Weissbach & Weissbach, 1988, Methods for Plant Molecular Biology, Academic Press, NY, 5 Section VIII, pp. 421-463; and Grierson & Corey, 1988, Plant Molecular Biology, 2d Ed., Blackie, London, Ch. 7-9.

An alternative expression system which could be used to express leptin is an insect system. In one such system, *Autographa californica* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcNPV) is 10 used as a vector to express foreign genes. The virus grows in *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells. The leptin coding sequence may be cloned into non-essential regions (for example the polyhedrin gene) of the virus and placed under control of an AcNPV promoter (for example the polyhedrin promoter).

15 Successful insertion of the leptin coding sequence will result in inactivation of the polyhedrin gene and production of non-occluded recombinant virus (i.e., virus lacking the proteinaceous coat coded for by the polyhedrin gene). These recombinant viruses are then used to infect *Spodoptera frugiperda* cells in which the inserted gene is expressed. (e.g., see Smith et al., 1983, J. Virol. 46:584; Smith, U.S. Patent No. 4,215,051).

In mammalian host cells, a number of viral based expression systems may be utilized. In cases where an 25 adenovirus is used as an expression vector, the leptin coding sequence may be ligated to an adenovirus transcription/translation control complex, e.g., the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. This chimeric gene may then be inserted in the adenovirus genome by in vitro or 30 in vivo recombination. Insertion in a non-essential region of the viral genome (e.g., region E1 or E3) will result in a recombinant virus that is viable and capable of expressing leptin in infected hosts (e.g., See Logan & Shenk, 1984, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 81:3655-3659). Alternatively, the 35 vaccinia 7.5K promoter may be used. (See, e.g., Mackett et al., 1982, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 79:7415-7419;

Mackett et al., 1984, *J. Virol.* 49:857-864; Panicali et al., 1982, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 79:4927-4931).

Specific initiation signals may also be required for efficient translation of inserted leptin coding sequences.

5 These signals include the ATG initiation codon and adjacent sequences. In cases where the entire leptin gene, including its own initiation codon and adjacent sequences, is inserted into the appropriate expression vector, no additional translational control signals may be needed. However, in  
10 cases where only a portion of the leptin coding sequence is inserted, exogenous translational control signals, including the ATG initiation codon, must be provided. Furthermore, the initiation codon must be in phase with the reading frame of the leptin coding sequence to ensure translation of the  
15 entire insert. These exogenous translational control signals and initiation codons can be of a variety of origins, both natural and synthetic. The efficiency of expression may be enhanced by the inclusion of appropriate transcription enhancer elements, transcription terminators, etc. (see  
20 Bittner et al., 1987, *Methods in Enzymol.* 153:516-544).

In addition, a host cell strain may be chosen which modulates the expression of the inserted sequences, or modifies and processes the gene product in the specific fashion desired. Such modifications (e.g., glycosylation)  
25 and processing (e.g., cleavage) of protein products may be important for the function of the protein. The presence of several consensus N-glycosylation sites in leptin support the possibility that proper modification may be important for leptin function. Different host cells have characteristic  
30 and specific mechanisms for the post-translational processing and modification of proteins. Appropriate cell lines or host systems can be chosen to ensure the correct modification and processing of the foreign protein expressed. To this end, eukaryotic host cells which possess the cellular machinery  
35 for proper processing of the primary transcript, glycosylation, and phosphorylation of the gene product may be

used. Such mammalian host cells include but are not limited to CHO, VERO, BHK, HeLa, COS, MDCK, 293, WI38, etc.

For long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins, stable expression is preferred. For example, cell 5 lines which stably express the leptin sequence may be engineered. Rather than using expression vectors which contain viral origins of replication, host cells can be transformed with the leptin DNA controlled by appropriate expression control elements (e.g., promoter, enhancer, 10 sequences, transcription terminators, polyadenylation sites, etc.), and a selectable marker. Following the introduction of foreign DNA, engineered cells may be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched media, and then are switched to a selective media. The selectable marker in the recombinant 15 plasmid confers resistance to the selection and allows cells to stably integrate the plasmid into their chromosomes and grow to form foci which in turn can be cloned and expanded into cell lines.

A number of selection systems may be used, including but 20 not limited to the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler, et al., 1977, *Cell* 11:223), hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (Szybalska & Szybalski, 1962, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 48:2026), and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy, et al., 1980, *Cell* 22:817) 25 genes can be employed in tk<sup>-</sup>, hgprt<sup>-</sup> or aprt<sup>-</sup> cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite resistance can be used as the basis of selection for dhfr, which confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler, et al., 1980, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77:3567; O'Hare, et al., 1981, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 30 78:1527); gpt, which confers resistance to mycophenolic acid (Mulligan & Berg, 1981, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 78:2072); neo, which confers resistance to the aminoglycoside G-418 (Colberre-Garapin et al., 1981, *J. Mol. Biol.* 150:1); and hygro, which confers resistance to hygromycin (Santerre, 35 et al., 1984, *Gene* 30:147) genes. Additional selectable genes have been described, namely trpB, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan; hisD, which allows

cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman & Mulligan, 1988, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:8047); and *ODC* (ornithine decarboxylase) which confers resistance to the ornithine decarboxylase inhibitor, 2-(difluoromethyl)-DL-  
5 ornithine, DFMO (McConlogue L., 1987, In: *Current Communications in Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory ed.).

Once the leptin protein is expressed by any of the aforementioned systems, supernatants of the cultured cells or  
10 cell lysates may be subjected to various standard methods of protein purification. For example, an anti-leptin antibody or Hu-B1.219 protein can be used to purify it by affinity chromatography. Alternatively, leptin may be purified by ion exchange chromatography or HPLC. Thereafter, the purity of  
15 the protein can be confirmed by various methods, including SDS-PAGE, and the protein used immediately or stored frozen for future use. For cell cultures and *in vivo* administration, purified leptin must be sterilized prior to use.

20

#### 5.4. ACTIVATION OF HU-B1.219-EXPRESSING CELLS BY LEPTIN

Since various forms of Hu-B1.219, including OB-R, are essentially identical in the extracellular domain, these receptors can bind leptin as a ligand. In order to compare  
25 the binding affinity of Hu-B1.219 isoforms to leptin, the variant forms are cloned into standard expression vectors, e.g. CMV promoter expression vectors, and transfected into COS and BaF3 cells. Surface expression of the receptor is then evaluated by direct binding to an anti-Hu-B1.219  
30 antibody. In addition, leptin binding assays can also be performed as described by Tartaglia et al. (1995, *Cell* 83:1263) using a leptin fusion protein or soluble leptin conjugated to a radiolabel, a fluorescent dye or an enzyme. The results are compared with mock transfected cells as  
35 negative controls.

Since the four variants of Hu-B1.219 contain different intracellular domains, these isoforms can be compared with

activated kinases, in turn, phosphorylate members of the STAT family of molecules which eventually translocate to the nucleus and form active transcription complexes (Darnell et al., 1994; *Science* 264:1415-1421; Zhong et al., 1994, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91:4806-4810; Hou et al., 1994, *Science* 265:1701-1706).

Therefore, cell activation by leptin can be evaluated by studying the pattern of phosphorylation of JAK1-3 following Hu-B1.219 binding. This can be carried out by culturing hematopoietic cells or Hu-B1.219 transfecants ( $1-100 \times 10^3$ ), in RPMI 1640 (GIBCO) with gentamicin (100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ), 2 mM glutamine (GIBCO), 10% FCS, and leptin (from 0 to 500 nM) for 10-60 minutes at 37°C. Following the incubation, the cells are washed in ice-cold PBS and resuspended in lysing buffer (1% Triton X-100, 200 mM NaCl, 10 mM Tris pH 7.5, 2.5 mM p-nitrophenyl guanidinobenzoate, 100  $\mu\text{M}$  Na<sub>3</sub>VO<sub>4</sub>, 1  $\mu\text{M}$  pepstatin, 50  $\mu\text{M}$  3,4-dichloroisocoumarin, 1 mM PMSF, 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  leupeptin, 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  aprotinin) for 30 minutes at 4°C followed by removal of nuclei and insoluble material by centrifugation. To the cell lysate is added polyclonal antibodies to JAK1 and JAK2 (Upstate Biotechnology, Lake Placid, NY) or human Tyk2, a human kinase related to the JAK family (Santa Cruz, CA) according to manufacturer's recommendation. This mixture is rotated for 30-60 minutes at 4°C and then 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of a 10% protein A-sepharose solution (Sigma) is added and rotated for

an additional 30 minutes at 4°C. The precipitate is washed with lysis buffer and eluted in standard SDS reducing sample buffer and resolved by SDS-PAGE. The proteins are analyzed by Western blots by transferring to Immobilon membranes 5 (Millipore). The membranes are blocked with gelatin (1%) and incubated with anti-phosphotyrosine (4G10, Upstate Biotechnology, Lake Placid, NY) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Phosphorylated proteins are detected with <sup>125</sup>I-labeled protein A (Amersham).

10 For the aforementioned experiment, hematopoietic cells can be obtained from human CD34<sup>+</sup> bone marrow and cord blood. For the murine experiments, three primitive populations can be evaluated, e.g. Ly-6<sup>-</sup> lineage negative bone marrow, or the equivalent in fetal liver, or AA4.1<sup>+</sup> fetal liver.

15 While tyrosine phosphorylation is an indication of cell activation resulting from ligand-receptor interactions, additional manifestations of activation at the cellular level can be assayed by using leptin to induce the proliferation and/or differentiation of hematopoietic precursors. Cell 20 proliferation can be easily assessed by <sup>3</sup>H-thymidine uptake or by visual enumeration of cell numbers. Differentiation of hematopoietic cells can be assayed by testing the ability of leptin to stimulate the *in vitro* growth and differentiation of various hematopoietic colonies. For example, a cell 25 mixture can be isolated from the yolk sac, fetal liver or bone marrow, and cultured in standard methylcellulose colony assays with and without serum supplements, in the presence of leptin (0.1-500 nM) with or without various other cytokines (Metcalf, 1984, in *Clonal Culture of Hematopoietic Cells: 30 Techniques and Applications*, Elsevier, NY).

A standard protocol for such an assay involves density gradient centrifugation of a cell mixture by Ficoll-Hypaque (1.077 gm/cm<sup>3</sup>) and resuspending about 1x10<sup>6</sup> viable cells in Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's Medium (IMDM) with 0.5-15% fetal 35 calf serum (FCS). The cells (1-100 x 10<sup>3</sup>/ml) are then mixed with IMDM that contains methylcellulose (1.3%), FCS (0.5-15%), BSA (1%), monothioglycerol (100 μM), gentamicin

(50 µg/ml), and leptin (0.1-500 nM). In parallel cultures, additional cytokines may include: IL-3 (100 pg/ml), steel factor or c-Kit ligand or SCF (10 ng/ml), and EPO (2 U/ml). After mixing, 1 ml of the mixture is dispensed into a 25 mm<sup>5</sup> bacterial grade culture dishes at 37°C in a humidified incubator for 5 to 18 days. Using an inverted microscope the number and type of hematopoietic colonies are determined. The colony morphology is used to categorize the various colony types, e.g. BFU-e, CFU-e, CFU-G, CFU-GM, CFU-M, CFU-<sup>10</sup> blast, or CFU-fibroblast (Metcalf, 1984, *Clonal Culture of Hematopoietic Cells: Techniques and Applications*, Elsevier, N.Y.; Freshney, 1994, in *Culture of Hematopoietic Cells*, Wiley-Liss, Inc., pp. 265-68). Optimal concentrations of leptin in this assay may increase both the size and the<sup>15</sup> frequency of these primitive pluripotent colonies.

While leptin may be used alone, it can also be used synergistically with several cytokines to promote hematopoietic cell growth including but not limited to, IL-1, IL-3, IL-6, EPO, steel factor (SCF) and GM-CSF (1 ng/ml). In<sup>20</sup> addition, since biologically active leptin is present in fetal calf serum (FCS), cultures with 0.5-15% of FCS can be tested. The specific activity of leptin in FCS can be inhibited by an anti-leptin antibody or a soluble variant of Hu-B1.219 as a control.

<sup>25</sup> In particular, the effects of leptin may be tested on the primitive precursors that form high proliferative potential cells (HPPC) (McNiece and Briddell, 1994, in *Culture of Hematopoietic Cells*, Wiley-Liss, Inc., pp. 23-40) and blast colonies (Leary and Ogawa, 1994, in *Culture of Hematopoietic Cells*, Wiley-Liss Inc., pp. 41-54). In order to evaluate the effects of leptin on even more primitive cells in these assays, CD34<sup>+</sup> bone marrow, cord blood, and fetal liver cells can be first sorted by an antibody and tested in the above assays. Since recent evidence has suggested the<sup>30</sup> existence of a CD34<sup>+</sup> stem cell, the CD34<sup>+</sup> Lin<sup>-</sup> population may also be stimulated by leptin.<sup>35</sup>

Furthermore, the effect of leptin on the primitive long term culture initiating cells (LTCIC) and on hematopoietic stem cells can be evaluated. LTCIC are precursors that can initiate a long-term hematopoietic culture and are believed 5 to be a function of hematopoietic stem cells (Sutherland and Eaves, 1994, in *Culture of Hematopoietic Cells*, Wiley-Liss, Inc., pp. 139-162; Van der Sluijs et al., 1990, *Exp. Hematol.* 18:893-896; Traycoff et al., 1994, *Exp. Hematol.* 22:215-222). The ability of these culture conditions to expand the 10 hematopoietic stem cell can be confirmed by the competitive repopulation assay (Harrison, 1980, *Blood* 55:77-81). This assay allows for the quantification of hematopoietic stem cells.

Additionally, since endothelial cells also express Hu- 15 B1.219, leptin may be used to stimulate the growth of primary endothelial cells at 0.1-500 nM in standard cultures for maintaining primary endothelial cells (Masek and Sweetenham, 1994, *Br. J. Haematol.* 88:855-865; Visner et al., 1994, *Am. J. Physiol.* 267:L406-413; Moyer et al., 1988, *In Vitro Cell Dev. Biol.* 24:359-368). Alternatively, leptin may be used to induce endothelial cells to produce cytokines (Broudy et al., 1987, *J. Immunol.* 139:464-468; Seelentag et al., 1987, *EMBO J.* 6:2261-2265). Supernatants of 2-5 day primary endothelial cell cultures or endothelial cell lines cultured in the 20 presence of leptin with or without other cytokines, such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF), transforming growth factor (TGF) and epidermal growth factor (EGF), are harvested and tested as a supplement in the 25 hematopoietic colony assays above.

In another aspect of the invention, since receptors often form dimers on the cell surface, the combination of different Hu-B1.219 isoforms that give optimal signal transduction can be measured by growth stimulation and 30 phosphorylation patterns. A Hu-B1.219 growth factor-dependent indicator cell line (e.g. BaF3) can be transfected with various combinations of the isoforms using standard CMV

expression vectors. Following the demonstration of cell surface expression, leptin (0.1-500 nM) is added to the cultures followed by the measurement of growth rates and phosphorylation patterns by established techniques. Other 5 cell lines such as TF-1, FD5 and TS1 may also be used.

Because of the expression of isoforms with truncated cytoplasmic tails, it is possible that another protein chain is used in some tissues as the signaling molecule in association with Hu-B1.219. Such a molecule can be screened 10 and selected by transfecting pools of cDNA from expression libraries of a variety of tissues e.g. fetal liver, CD34<sup>+</sup> bone marrow, lung, ovary, etc. together with constructs expressing one of the truncated Hu-B1.219 isoforms into a growth factor-dependent cell line (e.g. BaF3). The ability to grow 15 in the presence of leptin is used as a readout. In particular, the insulin receptor-related receptor (Zhang and Roth, 1992, *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:18320), the LIFR $\alpha$ , IL-2R $\gamma$ , IL-4R $\alpha$  (Mosely et al., 1989, *Cell* 89:335) and IL-13R $\alpha$  chains (Hilton et al., 1996, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 93:497) may 20 function as complementary chains for Hu-B1.219 activity. The techniques to identify the unique cDNA responsible for this complementation are well established in the art.

Additionally, agents that activate Hu-B1.219 in a manner similar to leptin may also be used in place of leptin. These 25 agents include small molecules and peptides, and they may be selected in the following screening assay. Ten thousand BaF3 and BaF3/Hu-B1.219 (transfected cells that express the full length Hu-B1.219 isoform) cells will be screened in microtiter plates for proliferative effects after incubation 30 with a test agent. Without stimulation these cells die. Any growth promoting effect seen on the transfected cell line and not with the BaF3 host would indicate that the test agent specifically activates the Hu-B1.219 receptor or its signaling pathway. This assay is used to screen small 35 molecules, including peptides, oligonucleotides, and chemical libraries.

### 5.5. IN VITRO USES OF LEPTIN

In view of the expression of Hu-B1.219 in diverse cell types, leptin may be used to activate these cells in culture. The activated cells expand in number due to increased proliferation and/or differentiate to become more mature cells. In this connection, the optimal effective concentration of leptin for each cell type may be determined by conventional titration experiments in which different amounts of leptin are incubated with the specific cells and their activation levels measured by tyrosine phosphorylation, proliferation or differentiation.

In particular, hematopoietic progenitor cells express Hu-B1.219. Hematopoietic cells may be activated by exposure to leptin *in vitro* which results in their expansion in number prior to their use *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Such hematopoietic cells may be obtained from the bone marrow, the peripheral blood (Demuynck et al., 1995, *Ann. Hematol.* 71:29-33; Scheding et al., 1994, *Stem Cells* 12:Suppl. 1:203-210) and cord blood. In order to selectively enhance the growth of hematopoietic stem cells, the donor cell mixture may be first separated into CD34<sup>+</sup> cells, followed by leptin stimulation. The expanded cells may be used as donor cells in bone marrow transplantation or as long-term bone marrow cultures (Ponchioro et al., 1995, *Blood* 86:3314-3321; Testa and Dexter, 1991, *Curr. Opin.* 3:272-278; Naughton and Naughton, 1991, United States Patent No. 5,032,508) for *in vitro* cytotoxicity testing and the discovery of novel cytokines.

Since Hu-B1.219 is also expressed in some endothelial cells and their progenitors, leptin may be used to induce blood vessel formation *in vitro*. In that regard, leptin may be used alone or in combination with VEGF, PDGF, FGF or TGF- $\alpha$ . Blood vessels form by a combination of two primary processes. Some blood vessel growth depends on angiogenesis, in a process similar to that associated with pathological conditions. For instance, the CNS depends solely on angiogenesis for development of its vascular supply (Nodew, 1989, *Am. Rev. Respir. Dis.* 140:1097-1103; Risau et al.,

1988, *EMBO J.* 7:959-962). A second process, vasculogenesis, depends on the incorporation of migratory individual endothelial cells (angioblasts) into the developing blood vessel. Leptin may be used to promote both angiogenesis and 5 vasculogenesis.

In addition, the coding sequence of leptin may be inserted in an expression vector in accordance with Section 5.3, *supra*, and transferred into leptin-nonproducing cell types to result in endogenous expression of leptin. For 10 example, hematopoietic stem cells are isolated and transfected with the leptin coding sequence. Thereafter, the cells are transferred into a bone marrow transplant recipient to cause endogenous production of leptin in stimulating hematopoiesis (United States Patent No. 5,399,346).

15

#### 5.6. IN VIVO USES OF LEPTIN

The appropriate dosage and formulation of leptin on human hematopoietic and endothelial development *in vivo* can be first determined in animal models. For example, normal 20 mice may be lethally irradiated or chemically ablated and reconstituted with syngeneic or allogeneic bone marrow. Since recombinant human leptin has been shown to be active on mouse cells, the rate of donor cell engraftment can be compared between leptin-treated and non-treated groups. 25 Because of the Hu-B1.219 expression on primitive hematopoietic cells, leptin facilitates the growth and recovery of these cells in the recipient. The effect of leptin on *in vivo* hematopoietic proliferation and differentiation in these situations can be evaluated by 30 reconstituting lethally irradiating mice (900R) with normal bone marrow cells ( $1-5 \times 10^6$  per mouse). Groups of animals are given PBS injections as controls and other groups receive leptin (0.1 - 10 mg/kg) at varying intervals. The activity of leptin is assayed by the rapidity of re-normalization and 35 stability of blood profiles (e.g. hematocrit, WBC count, differential, etc.).

In addition, neonatal, sublethally irradiated adult normal or SCID mice can be reconstituted with human hematopoietic stem cell isolated from bone marrow, cord blood, or fractions thereof. In these mice, the human 5 hematopoietic cells engraft and differentiate (McCune et al., 1988, *Science* 241:1632-1639; Sandhu et al., 1994, *J. Immunol.* 152:3806-3813). The effects of leptin can be evaluated by measuring the growth rate and extent of differentiation of human cells in these animals.

- 10 An effective amount of leptin may be administered into a patient who is in need of increased hematopoietic cell function. Such a need may arise from various forms of immunodeficiencies (B cell deficiencies, T cell deficiencies and combined deficiencies), myelosuppression, anemias and 15 cancer. In these cases, leptin may be used alone or in combination with other cytokines. The ability of leptin to stimulate myeloid growth indicates that it is particularly useful for inducing macrophage and neutrophil development. Since these cell types are known to be involved in 20 inflammatory responses such as rheumatoid arthritis, inhibitors of leptin such as an antibody or a soluble OB-R may be used to inhibit inflammation. On the other hand, since macrophages are involved in the process of wound healing, leptin may be used to promote wound healing by 25 stimulating macrophages. Additionally, since certain tumor cells such as leukemic cells express Hu-B1.219, leptin may be used therapeutically to suppress tumor growth by inducing terminal differentiation of these cells. Alternatively, leptin may be conjugated to a growth inhibitory agent such as 30 ricin, diphtheria toxin or a chemotherapeutic drug to specifically target and destroy tumor cells. Furthermore, antagonists of leptin, e.g., a modified leptin molecule or a fragment thereof that binds to its receptor but does not trigger signal transduction may be used to block the 35 stimulatory effects of leptin in cases where naturally occurring leptin stimulates tumor growth *in vivo*.

Additionally, the leptin coding sequence may be inserted in a viral vector for use in gene therapy (Jolly, 1994, *Cancer Gene Therapy*, 1:51). In particular, retrovirus, adenovirus, vaccinia virus and adeno-associated viruses are preferred. The leptin coding sequence-carrying virus is injected into a patient to directly supply leptin by secretion into the bloodstream or to a specific target tissue.

10        **5.6.1. DOSAGE DETERMINATION**

The leptin protein, and nucleic acid sequences described herein can be administered to a patient at therapeutically effective doses to treat or ameliorate various hematologic disorders and deficiencies. A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of the protein sufficient to result in amelioration of symptoms of the disorder, or alternatively, to that amount of a nucleic acid sequence sufficient to express a concentration of gene product which results in the amelioration of the disorder.

20        Toxicity and therapeutic efficacy of leptin can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., for determining the LD<sub>50</sub> (the dose lethal to 50% of the population) and the ED<sub>50</sub> (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population). The dose ratio between toxic and therapeutic effects is the therapeutic index and it can be expressed as the ratio LD<sub>50</sub>/ED<sub>50</sub>. Purified leptin which exhibits large therapeutic indices is preferred. While leptin preparations that exhibit toxic side effects may be used, care should be taken to design a delivery system that targets such preparations to the site of affected tissue in order to minimize potential damage to normal cells and, thereby, reduce side effects.

35        The data obtained from the cell culture assays and animal studies can be used in formulating a range of dosage for use in humans. The dosage of leptin lies preferably within a range of circulating concentrations that include the

ED<sub>50</sub> with little or no toxicity. The dosage may vary within this range depending upon the dosage form employed and the route of administration utilized. A dose may be formulated in animal models to achieve a circulating plasma concentration range that includes the IC<sub>50</sub> (i.e., the concentration of leptin which achieves a half-maximal inhibition of symptoms) as determined in cell culture. Such information can be used to more accurately determine useful doses in humans. Levels in plasma may be measured, for example, by high performance liquid chromatography.

#### 5.6.2. FORMULATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Pharmaceutical compositions for use in accordance with the present invention may be formulated in conventional manner using one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients (Pharmaceutical Dosage Forms and Drug Delivery Systems, 1995, 6th ed., Williams & Wilkins). The compositions may be formulated for parenteral administration i.e., intravenous, subcutaneous, intradermal or intramuscular, via, for example, bolus injection or continuous infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, e.g., in ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents. Alternatively, the active ingredient may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g., sterile pyrogen-free water, before use. It is preferred that leptin be introduced into patients via intravenous administration to directly stimulate blood progenitors.

Leptin may be formulated for administration by inhalation or insufflation (either through the mouth or the nose) or oral, buccal, parenteral, topical or rectal administration.

For oral administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may take the form of, for example, tablets or capsules prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients such as binding agents (e.g., 5 pre-gelatinised maize starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose); fillers (e.g., lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or calcium hydrogen phosphate); lubricants (e.g., magnesium stearate, talc or silica); disintegrants (e.g., potato starch or sodium starch 10 glycollate); or wetting agents (e.g., sodium lauryl sulphate). The tablets may be coated by methods well known in the art. Liquid preparations for oral administration may take the form of, for example, solutions, syrups or suspensions, or they may be presented as a dry product for 15 constitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may be prepared by conventional means with pharmaceutically acceptable additives such as suspending agents (e.g., sorbitol syrup, cellulose derivatives or hydrogenated edible fats); emulsifying agents 20 (e.g., lecithin or acacia); non-aqueous vehicles (e.g., almond oil, oily esters, ethyl alcohol or fractionated vegetable oils); and preservatives (e.g., methyl or propyl-p-hydroxybenzoates or sorbic acid). The preparations may also contain buffer salts, flavoring, coloring and sweetening 25 agents as appropriate.

Preparations for oral administration may be suitably formulated to give controlled release of the active compound.

For buccal administration the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional 30 manner.

For administration by inhalation, the compositions for use according to the present invention are conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation from pressurized packs or a nebuliser, with the use of a suitable 35 propellant, e.g., dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized

aerosol the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered amount. Capsules and cartridges of e.g. gelatin for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated containing a powder mix of the protein and a 5 suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

The compositions may also be formulated in rectal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g., containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

- 10 In addition to the formulations described above, the compositions may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be administered by implantation (for example subcutaneously or intramuscularly) or by intramuscular injection. Thus, for example, the 15 compositions may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt.
- 20 The compositions may, if desired, be presented in a pack or dispenser device which may contain one or more unit dosage forms containing the active ingredient. The pack may comprise metal or plastic foil, such as a blister pack. The pack or dispenser device may be accompanied by instructions 25 for administration.

6. EXAMPLE: THE OB-R IS A VARIANT FORM OF THE  
HEMATOPOIETIN RECEPTOR DESIGNATED Hu-B1.219

6.1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

30 6.1.1. NORTHERN BLOTH ANALYSIS

In order to study the expression of the Hu-B1.219 gene, Northern blots containing RNA obtained from a variety of human tissues (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) were hybridized with a radiolabelled 530 base pair (bp) DNA probe corresponding to 35 nucleotides #578 through 1107 (see Figure 1A-1E). Briefly, the blots were prehybridized at 42°C for 3-6 hours in a solution containing 5X SSPE, 10X Denhardt's solution, 100

6.1.2. REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION, POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (RT/PCR)

Total RNA was isolated using standard laboratory  
15 procedures (Sambrook et al., 1989, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY). Approximately 1  $\mu$ g of total RNA was reverse transcribed and the cDNA was amplified by PCR (Perkin Elmer, Norwalk, CT). The PCR amplification conditions were the same for Hu-B1.219  
20 and Form 1 expression analysis. They were: 94°C for 30 sec, 60°C for 30 sec, 72°C for 30 sec for a total of 40 cycles. The amplified products (224 bp for Hu-B1.219 and 816 bp for Form 1) were resolved by agarose gel electrophoresis and visualized by ethidium bromide staining. The Form 1 specific  
25 amplimers were GACTCATTGTGCAGTGTTCAG (upper) and TAGTGGAGGGAGGGTCAGCAG (lower). The upper amplimer was commonly shared by all 3 forms, whereas the lower amplimer was Form 1-specific. The OB-R-specific (Form 4) amplimers were ACATCTCCAAAATAGC (upper) and TGCCTGGGCCTCTATCTC  
30 (lower).

**6.2. RESULTS**

A number of cDNA clones were isolated from a human fetal liver cDNA library (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA), and the DNA sequences of several of these clones were determined. These  
35 clones (designated Hu-B1.219 #4, #33, #34, #1, #36, #8, #55, #60, #3, #57, #62) contained overlapping sequences, which

were then compiled into a contiguous nucleotide sequence. Both the nucleotide sequence and the predicted protein sequence from one such cDNA are shown in Figure 1A-1E. This cDNA sequence contains two FN III domains, each containing a 5 "WS box", which are characteristic of genes of the HR family. Thus, this cDNA represents a novel member of the HR gene family, herein referred to as Hu-B1.219 (Table 1). Based on the sequence of Hu-B1.219 presented in Figure 1A-1E, the translation initiation site appears at position #97. The 10 sequence encodes an open reading frame up to and including nucleotide #2970. It is believed that the sequence from about nucleotide #2629 to about #2682 encodes a transmembrane domain. The complete sequence encodes a protein of 958 amino acids.

15 Subsequent amino acid sequence comparison of this molecule with other published protein sequences revealed that it was highly homologous to a recently published human OB-R protein (Tartaglia, 1995, *Cell* 83:1263-1271). In this connection, the sequence of Hu-B1.219 shown in Figure 1A-1E 20 differs from the published human OB-R sequence only at three nucleotide positions in the extracellular domain, i.e. nucleotide residues #349, #422 and #764, resulting in amino acids alanine, arginine and arginine, respectively, in Hu-B1.219 protein. The two molecules are identical in the 25 transmembrane region and a portion of the intracellular domain up to and including nucleotide #2769, then they diverge at nucleotide #2770 and beyond.

30 TABLE 1  
CYTOKINE RECEPTOR GENE FN III DOMAIN SIZES (BP)

<u>Gene</u>	<u>Human</u>	<u>Mouse</u>	<u>Rat</u>
Hu-B1.219(5')	273		
Hu-B1.219(3')	282		
IL-2R $\beta$	291	288	291
IL-2R $\gamma$	273		

	IL-3R $\alpha$	246	252	
	IL-3R $\beta$ Aic2a		306 and 273	
	IL-3R $\beta$ Aic2b	306 and 282	303 and 276	
5	IL-4R	294		291
	IL-5R $\alpha$	276	273	
	IL-6R	288	285	
	gp130	288	291	288
	IL-7R		294	
10	IL-9R	321	321	
	mpl		270	
	G-CSFR	300	297	
	GM-CSFR	288		
15	CNTFR	282		285
	PRLR			288
	EPOR	288	285	288
	LIFR-1	321 and 297		

20        In addition to the sequence in Figure 1A-1E referred to  
as Form 1 of Hu-B1.219 and the variant form reported to be  
OB-R, other lambda clones were discovered that contained  
different sequences from Form 1 near the 3' end known as Form  
2 and Form 3. All three forms contain the identical sequence  
25 up to and including nucleotide #2770, then they diverge at  
nucleotide #2771 and beyond (Figure 2). An alignment of the  
deduced amino acid sequences of all three forms and the OB-R  
is shown in Figure 3A-3C. Two of the originally isolated  
lambda clones, #36 and #8, contain the 3' end sequences of  
30 Form 1 and Form 2, respectively. The different forms of  
Hu-B1.219 may derive from a common precursor mRNA by an  
alternative splicing mechanism. The sequence in this region  
is consistent with well known splice junctions. It is  
noteworthy that the DNA sequence of Form 1 from nucleotide  
35 #2768 to the end is 98% identical to a human retrotransposon  
sequence that is thought to be derived from a human

endogenous retroviral DNA sequence (Singer, 1982, Cell 28:433; Weiner et al., 1986, Ann. Rev. Biochem. 55:631; Lower et al., 1993, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:4480; Ono et al., 1987, Nucl. Acid Res. 15:8725-8735).

5 In view of the foregoing, the recently published human OB-R by Tartaglia (1995, Cell 83:1263) represents a fourth form of Hu-B1.219 because of its structural similarities to the aforementioned three forms (Figure 3A-3C). Although there are three amino acid substitutions in the OB-R, such 10 differences may have resulted from allelic disparities between genetically diverse individuals. The differences in their cytoplasmic domains may be involved in the different signalling pathways used by these receptor variants in different cells.

15 In order to examine the expression of the variant forms of cDNA, RT/PCR was performed using several human cell lines. The results in Table 2 show that Form 1 was expressed as RNA in K-562 cells and in a human fetal liver cDNA preparation. Since Hu-B1.219 was cloned from human fetal liver cDNA library, this served as a positive control. However, with respect to several other human cell lines, Form 1 was not detected, whereas Hu-B1.219 expression was positive. For example, Form 1 was not expressed in KGla cells, but Form 3 was expressed. Thus, it is possible that different forms of 25 Hu-B1.219 are not expressed simultaneously in the same cells. There may be selective expression of certain forms in particular cell populations. Additionally, Table 3 shows expression of Hu-B1.219 in cell lines of diverse origins, including hematopoietic, endothelial, central nervous system 30 (CNS), breast and muscle. It is interesting to note that the variant (Hu-B1.219.4) reported to be OB-R is also detected in these cells, particularly in hematopoietic cell lines, HEL and K562 (Table 3).

TABLE 2  
RT/PCR ANALYSIS OF  
COMPARATIVE EXPRESSION OF TWO HU-B1.219 FORMS

	<u>Cell Lines</u>	Hu-B1.219*	Form 1 <sub>A</sub>	Form 3 <sub>A</sub>
5	MRC5 (Lung fibroblast)	++	+/-	+
	KG1a (lymphoblast)	+	-	++
	Raji (B cell lymphoma)	+	-	+
	Kit 225/K6 (T cell)	+++	-	+
10	K562 (myelogenous leukemia)	++++	+++	++++
	Human Fetal Liver (positive control)	+++	+++	+++

\* - Analysis by Northern blots

△ - Analysis by RT/PCR

15 Various human tissue RNA were probed with a radiolabelled Hu-B1.219 fragment corresponding to nucleotide numbers from #578 to #1107 as disclosed in Figure 1A-1E for Northern blot analyses. Two different size mRNAs were detected. This result suggests that there may be another 20 homologous gene or there is alternative splicing of a single RNA transcript. Hu-B1.219 expression was by far the strongest in human fetal tissues, particularly the liver and lung. Trace levels were found in several adult tissues. Interestingly, a chronic myelogenous leukemia cell line, K562 25 (Table 2), was strongly positive for its expression, while some expression was also detected in A549 cells, a lung carcinoma cell line (Table 4). A representative northern blot showing the expression of Hu-B1.219 in several human tissues is presented in Figure 4. Using more sensitive PCR, 30 Hu-B1.219 was also detected in bone marrow.

TABLE 3

## EXPRESSION OF Hu-B1.219 IN CELL LINES BY PCR

	Tissue Type	Cell Lines	Hu-B1.219	Hu-B1.219.1	Hu-B1.219.4
5	Hematopoietic	K562	++++	+++	++
		HEL	++++	++	++++
		Mo7e	+	+/-	-
10	Endothelial	HYSE	++++	++	++
		HYS-VS1	+	-	+
		HuVEC	++	+	-
15		ECV304	++	+	-
	CNS	U188MG	++	+	-
		SF295	+	+	+/-
20		U251	++	+	+
		SNB75	+	+	+
		U87MG	+++	++	++
25		SNB19	++	+	+
		SF539	++	+	+
	Breast	DU4475	++	++	++
		MCF-7	+	+	+/-
	Muscle	143B	++	+	+
		fetal myoblast	+++	++	+++

Hu-B1.219 refers to any of the membrane-bound isoforms.

Hu-B1.219.1 refers to Form 1 only.

Hu-B1.219.4 refers to the isoform reported to be human OB-R.

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF NORTHERN BLOT ANALYSIS OF  
Hu-B1.219 EXPRESSION IN HUMAN TISSUES AND CELL LINES

5

	Developmental Stage	Tissue Type	Expression
10	fetal	brain	-
		lung	+++
		liver	+++++
		kidney	+
15	adult	heart	++
		brain	+/-
		placenta	+
		lung	+
		liver	+++
		skeletal muscle	+
		kidney	+/-
		pancreas	+
		spleen	+/-
		thymus	+/-
		prostate	++
		testis	+/-
20		ovary	+++
		small intestine	++
		colon	-
		peripheral blood	-
		leukocytes	-
25	cancer	HL-60	-
		HeLa	-
		K-562	+++
		MOLT-4	-
		Raji	-
		SW480	-
		A549	+
		G361	-

30

35

Taken together, the data indicates that the Hu-B1.219 represents a new member of the human hematopoietin receptor family. It was originally cloned from a hematopoietic tissue, fetal liver. It is expressed by certain fetal tissues, and shares structural homology with several receptors which interact with ligands capable of influencing hematopoietic development. In this regard, it shares certain sequence homology with the IL-6R, IL-4R, G-CSFR, IL-3R beta chain, gp130, IL-12R, and LIFR. It contains two "WS box" motifs with the correct spacing of conserved amino acids in the FN III domains, an amphipathic sequence in block 3 of the FN III domains, and alternating hydrophobic and basic amino acids in block 6 of the FN III domains. It also contains conserved cysteines in the cysteine rich regions upstream of the FN III domains.

Despite its structural similarities with receptors expressed by hematopoietic cells, the extracellular domain of Hu-B1.219 is nearly identical to that of the human OB-R expressed in the brain. In fact, since three variant forms of Hu-B1.219 have been isolated, which show extensive sequence diversity primarily in their intracellular cytoplasmic domains, OB-R may be considered an additional isoform of the same receptor. The data presented in Table 3 further confirm that the OB-R is expressed not only in cells of the brain, but also in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. Therefore, since leptin binds to OB-R, it is also a ligand that can trigger activation of certain isoforms of Hu-B1.219 in hematopoietic and endothelial cells that express these receptor variants.

30

7. EXAMPLE: Hu-B1.219 IS EXPRESSED BY  
LONG-TERM REPOPULATING  
HEMATOPOIETIC PROGENITOR CELLS

7.1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

7.1.1. RNA EXTRACTION AND cDNA SYNTHESIS

35

Total RNA was extracted using the recommended procedure for RNazol reagent (Biotecx, Houston, Texas). RNA was added

at 1 $\mu$ g/20 $\mu$ l of a random hexamer primed RT cDNA synthesis reaction. Mock RT reactions were also performed for each of the experimental samples. RT reactions were incubated at room temperature for 10 minutes, 42°C for 15 minutes, 99°C for 5 minutes and a 4°C hold. All PCR reagents were obtained from Perkin Elmer (Foster City, California).

#### 7.1.2. PCR CONDITIONS

The quality of each cDNA and mock cDNA was determined by 10 the relative level of amplification of the  $\beta$ -actin gene. The conditions for actin amplification were 94°C for 30 seconds; 55°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 30 seconds for 27 to 30 cycles followed by a 72°C extension for 5 minutes and a 4°C hold. The DNA sequence of the  $\beta$ -actin primers were (forward) 15 5'GTGACGGCCCAGAGCAAGAG-3' and (reverse) 5'-AGGGGCCGGACTCATCGTACTC-3'

PCR amplification conditions for murine homolog of Hu-B1.219 and CD34 were 94°C for 30 seconds; 60°C for 30 seconds; 72°C for 30 seconds for 40 to 45 cycles followed by 20 a 72°C extension for 5 minutes and a 4°C hold. The primer sequences for Hu-B1.219 were (forward) 5'-GGTCAGAACAGATGTGGGAAA-3' and (reverse) 5'-GTGCCAGGAACAATTCTT-3'. These PCR primers amplified both human and murine sequences. The CD34 primer sequences for 25 human were (forward) 5'-CTCTTCTGTCCAGTCACAGACC-3', and (reverse) 5'-GAATAGCTCTGGTGGCTTGC-3'. The CD34 primer sequences for murine were (forward) 5'-CTACCACGGAGACTTCTACAC-3' and (reverse) 5'-TGGATCCCCAGCTTCCTCAA-3'. The PCR products were analyzed 30 on a 1.5% TAE agarose gel containing 0.5 $\mu$ g ethidium bromide/ml of buffer.

Additional primers for detecting the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219 were (forward) 5'-GTCAGAACAGATGTGG GAAA-3' and (reverse) 5'-GTGCCAGGAACAATTCTT-3'. The primers detecting 35 the OB-R were (forward) 5'-ATTATTCCTCTGTGTCCCTA-3' and (reverse) 5'-GTCTGATAAAAGGAAAA ATGT-3'. Primers that amplified the murine homolog of Form 3 of Hu-B1.219 were

(forward) 5'-GTCAGAAGATGTGGGAAA-3' and (reverse) 5'-AAGTTGGTAGATTGGGTTCA-3'. The expected PCR products were 934 bp product for actin, 581-bp product for Hu-B1.219 isoforms, 582-bp for the OB-R, and 661-bp product for murine homolog of  
5 Form 3.

#### 7.1.3. ES CELL CULTURES

CCE ES cells were maintained on DMEM containing 15% FBS and rLIF. Two days prior to the initiation of  
10 differentiation, cells were passaged into IMDM containing 15% FBS. On day zero of differentiation, the cells were trypsinized and resuspended in IMDM containing 15% FBS. Petri dishes (100 mm) were seeded at 4500 cells/ml. EB bodies were allowed to settle and collected on the indicated  
15 days.

#### 7.2. RESULTS

Section 6.2, *supra*, demonstrates that Hu-B1.219 is expressed in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. In this  
20 connection, its expression in fetal liver is consistent with the high hematopoietic activities in the fetal liver, and its expression in fetal lung is consistent with the high level of endothelial development in fetal lung. To more precisely determine the expression of Hu-B1.219 in different  
25 populations of hematopoietic cells, human bone marrow cells were highly enriched for hematopoietic stem cells by cell sorting based on their CD34 expression (Collins et al., 1994, *Stem Cells* 12:577-585; Berenson, 1993, *J. Hematother.* 2:347-349; Civin and Gore, 1993, *J. Hematother.* 2:137-144). When  
30 RNA extracted from human CD34<sup>+</sup> and CD34<sup>-</sup> bone marrow fractions were reacted with Hu-B1.219 primers in PCR, Hu-B1.219 message was detected in both fractions (Figure 5A). The fact that only the CD34<sup>+</sup> fraction expressed CD34 message in PCR demonstrates the purity of the sorted population (Figure 5B).  
35 Since the CD34<sup>+</sup> fraction contained several cell types, the detected Hu-B1.219 message might have been produced by

endothelial cells. Alternatively, Hu-B1.219 may be expressed by a CD34<sup>-</sup> hematopoietic stem cell.

The expression of Fc receptors (FcR) and AA4.1 antigen in murine fetal liver cells has been used to define distinct 5 fetal liver precursor cell subpopulations (Carlsson et al., 1995, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 25:2308-2317; Jordan et al., 1995, *Exp. Hematol.* 23:1011-1015; Trevisan and Iscove, 1995, *J. Exp. Med.* 181:93-103). Sorting murine fetal liver cells (day 12) based on the expression of these two markers has resulted 10 in the isolation of a small (2-4%) subpopulation of AA4.1<sup>+</sup> and FcR<sup>-</sup> cells that are highly enriched for primitive hematopoietic stem cells. Animal repopulating experiments have shown that fetal liver cells with this phenotype contain long-term repopulating potential upon adoptive transfer into 15 recipients with destroyed lympho-hematopoietic system. Therefore, fetal liver cells were sorted into various fractions based on expression of AA4.1 and FcR, and primers designed from Hu-B1.219 that would amplify the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219 message were used to detect its expression. 20 Figure 6A and 6B shows that the highly enriched AA4.1<sup>+</sup>/FcR<sup>-</sup> subpopulation was the only population at this stage that expressed the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219, whereas CD34 mRNA was detected in all fractions tested. This result indicates that while CD34 has been used as a marker of human 25 hematopoietic progenitor cells, Hu-B1.219 marks with greater specificity the long-term repopulating cells within the CD34<sup>+</sup> fraction.

In addition, expression of the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219 was also observed in the subpopulation of murine 30 adult bone marrow sorted for Ly-6 expression but negative for mature lineage markers. This fractionation procedure is a well established technique for isolating a highly purified population of hematopoietic stem cells from bone marrow (Li et al., 1992, *J. Exp. Med.* 175:1443-1447; Spangrude and Brooks, 1993, *Blood* 82:3327-3332; Szilvassy and Cory, 1993, *Blood* 81:2310-2320). Furthermore, murine fetal liver cells enriched for long-term repopulating cells by a recently 35

developed method utilizing expression of the Mac-1 marker also expressed the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219 (Morrison et al., 1995, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 92:10302-10306).

Taken collectively, the aforementioned mouse and human studies indicate that Hu-B1.219 is a marker of a subpopulation of early progenitor cells within the CD34<sup>+</sup> fraction. In particular, Hu-B1.219 expression in long-term repopulating cells allows its use as a marker for their isolation. In this regard, an antibody specific for Hu-B1.219 or leptin may be used alone or in combination with a progenitor cell-specific antibody such as anti-CD34. For example, human bone marrow cells can be separated first into CD34<sup>+</sup> cells followed by Hu-B1.219 sorting to obtain such progenitor cells. In addition, since Hu-B1.219 expression is detected in a CD34<sup>+</sup> subpopulation, it can also be used as a marker to isolate a CD34<sup>+</sup> stem cell.

Early embryonic yolk sac cells have been described to possess the potential of giving rise to both hematopoietic and endothelial cells (Wagner and Antczak, 1995, WO95/02038).

In the yolk sac, endothelial cells also produce the microenvironment for hematopoietic differentiation and proliferation. It is important to note that yolk sac cells with endothelial potential (Wei et al., 1995, *Stem Cells* 13:541-547) have also been shown to express the murine homolog of Hu-B1.219. Therefore, Hu-B1.219 may also be used as a marker for endothelial progenitor cells.

Embryonic stem (ES) cell differentiation cultures provide an *in vitro* model of erythroid development from non-hematopoietic precursors (Schmitt et al., *Genes Dev.* 5:728-740). As ES cells differentiate into embryoid bodies (EB), the first erythroid precursors appear at day 4 (d4) of differentiation and increase in frequency until d6 (Keller et al., 1993, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 13:473). The expression of Hu-B1.219 was evaluated during ES differentiation to correlate its expression with erythropoietic differentiation. The Hu-B1.219 variant OB-R was first detected on d3.5 and gradually increased until d6 of differentiation (Figure 7A and B).

This expression pattern paralleled the documented appearance of committed erythroid precursors developing in the EB.

In vivo, the first hematopoietic precursors appear in the yolk sac at 7-8 days of development. By d12 of gestation 5 in the mouse, the fetal liver becomes the primary site of erythropoiesis (Hara and Ogawa, 1977, *Exp. Hematol.* 5:141; Moore and Metcalf, 1970, *Br. J. Haematol.* 18:279). This wave continues through day 18 when hematopoietic activity migrates to the bone marrow. RT-PCR showed that both the OB-R and Hu-10 B1.219 Form 3 were expressed in yolk sac (Figure 7C and D) and fetal liver (Figure 7E and F) at levels that corresponded to the hematopoietic development.

15           8. EXAMPLE: RECOMBINANT LEPTIN STIMULATES  
              BONE MARROW COLONY FORMATION

8.1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

8.1.1. PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT LEPTIN

Total RNA was isolated, using RNaZol method, from brown adipose tissue from C57B mice. RT-PCR was performed using 20 the Boehringer Mannheim "High Fidelity PCR System." PCR primers: murine leptin (mOB) U462

GGAATTCCATATGGTGCCTATCCAGAA and L462  
GCGGATCCTCAGCATTCAAGGGCTAA were designed based on Genbank sequence U18812 (Zhang et al., 1994, *Nature* 372:425-432).

25 The PCR product was purified using the Promega Wizard column.

The PCR fragment was cut with NdeI and BamHI and cloned into NdeI-BamHI cleaved pET15b vector (Novagen). Clones were obtained first in *E. coli* strain DH10B (GibcoBRL), then transferred to the BL21 (DE3) (Novagen) host for production.

30 Two splicing variants of mOB were identified. One that was missing a single glutamine amino acid at residue #49 from the initiator Met and one that had a glutamine at that position. Proteins were made from both clones. Murine leptin was made in *E. coli* as a fusion protein with poly histidine on the 35 amino terminus. Recombinant murine leptin was produced as insoluble inclusion bodies and purified as described in Sambrook et al., *supra*. The insoluble material was denatured

and "refolded" to reconstitute biologically active leptin. Inclusion bodies were dissolved in 8M Urea plus 100mM DTT for 2 hr. at room temperature, diluted 1/100 into a "refolding reaction buffer" (100 mM Tris pH8.3, 100 mM (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 100 μM 5 Triton X100, 2mM reduced glutathione, 0.4 mM oxidized glutathione) and incubated at 4°C for 3 to 5 days. The refolded leptin was recovered by adding the histidine binding resin (Novagen) for 1 hr. The resin was recovered by centrifugation, rinsed with Novagen "binding buffer", and the 10 Novagen "wash buffer". The leptin was eluted from the resin with Novagen "elution buffer" plus 1M imidazole. The final step was dialysis in PBS. Commercially available HPLC-purified leptin (Peprotech Inc., Rocky Hill, NJ) was also used with similar results.

15

#### 8.1.2. METHYLCELLULOSE COLONY FORMING ASSAYS

Adult bone marrow cells were isolated from normal C5-7BL/6 female mice, ob/ob mice and db/db mice. In addition, murine fetal liver and yolk sac cells, as well as human bone 20 marrow cells, were isolated by conventional methods. About 1x10<sup>6</sup> viable cells were suspended in Iscove's Modified Dulbecco's Medium (IMDM) with 0.5 to 15% fetal calf serum (FCS). The cells (1-100 × 10<sup>3</sup>/ml) were then mixed with IMDM that contained methylcellulose (1.3%) (Sawyer-Biddle, NY, 25 NY), FCS (4%), BSA (1%), monothioglycerol (100 μM), gentamicin (50 μg/ml), purified recombinant leptin (1 ng/ml) with or without IL-3 (100 pg/ml), GM-CSF (1 ng/ml) or EPO (2 U/ml). After mixing, 1 ml of the mixture was dispensed into a 25 mm bacterial grade culture dishes at 37°C in a 30 humidified incubator for several days. Using an inverted microscope, CFU-e, BFU-e and GEMM ≥ 4 cells were counted on about day 3, 10 and 13, respectively (Metcalf, 1984, *Clonal Culture of Hematopoietic Cells: Techniques and Applications*, Elsevier, N.Y.; Freshney, 1994, in *Culture of Hematopoietic Cells*, Wiley-Liss, Inc., pp. 265-68).

### 8.1.3. PROLIFERATION ASSAYS

Murine yolk sac and fetal liver were isolated from d10 and d14 mouse embryos, respectively, and mechanically dispersed into single cells. Microtiter plates were seeded 5 with  $2.5 \times 10^4$  cells in  $50\mu\text{l}$  of IMDM containing 2% FBS and pulsed with the indicated cytokines (R & D, Minneapolis, MN). The plates were incubated at  $37^\circ\text{C}$  with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 72 hrs. Cell number was measured using a colormetric MTS assay (Promega, Madison, WI).

10

### 8.2. RESULTS

Since yolk sac and fetal liver cells express Hu-B1.219 receptors, recombinant leptin was tested for its ability to stimulate these cells to proliferate. In cultures, leptin 15 significantly stimulated the growth of both yolk sac (Figure 8A) and fetal liver cells (Figure 8B) in a dose dependent manner. At day 13 of development, 80-90% of the fetal liver cells express Ter119, a marker for late stage erythroid lineage (Okuta et al., 1990, Cell 62:863). Sorting analyses 20 indicated that at this stage, leptin-responsive cells were in the Ter119 negative subpopulation, but following a 4-day culture of this population with leptin, there was a 4-fold increase in the frequency of cells that expressed macrophage/monocyte markers: Mac-1 (CD11b) and F4/80, 25 indicating that leptin was stimulating the myeloid lineage.

Methylcellulose colony assays were used to further evaluate the hematopoietic lineages affected by leptin. Leptin stimulated lineage-committed colony forming precursors of the macrophage and neutrophil lineages from both the fetal 30 liver (Figure 9A-C) and adult bone marrow (Figure 10 A-C). The only situation in which non-lineage committed precursors were stimulated was observed in ES differentiation cultures, and GM from bone marrow. In ES cell cultures, leptin stimulated a "E/Mac" bi-potential precursor that had the 35 ability to produce both the erythroid and macrophage lineages (Figure 11 A and B). The erythroid/macrophage response required the addition of steel factor (SLF), while the

macrophage response did not. Although these cultures were performed at low to moderate cell density, it is not yet clear whether these colonies are a result of single precursors or combination of precursors.

5 Additionally, methylcellulose colony assays utilizing adult bone marrow demonstrated that leptin by itself increased the number of macrophage colonies and synergized with EPO to stimulate colony-forming-unit-erythroid (CFU-e) (Figure 12 A and B). Although the effect on CFU-e was EPO dependent, the number of colonies doubled over that observed with saturating levels of EPO alone. The non-responsiveness of marrow from *db/db* mice, whose mutation results in dramatically reduced expression of the OB-R, to leptin demonstrates the direct involvement of the Hu-B1.219 in the 10 observed effect, and indicates that the effect is dependent on leptin and not a contaminant in the preparation. The CFU-e counts in these experiments were linearly related to the input cell number, indicating a direct effect of leptin on the CFU-e. In addition, leptin and EPO stimulated CFU-e 15 count synergistically from normal human bone marrow, although EPO was required in order to induce any stimulatory effects 20 (Figure 13).

When normal mouse bone marrow cells were incubated with leptin in the presence of IL-3, GM-CSF and EPO, a two-fold 25 increase in the number of CFU-e was also observed as compared to the cells stimulated with medium containing the cytokines except leptin. Similarly, leptin caused an increased number of CFU-e from *ob/ob* mouse bone marrow. In contrast, leptin did not stimulate CFU-e from *db/db* mouse bone marrow, an 30 observation consistent with the belief of an aberrant OB-R expressed by such animals (Chen et al., 1996 Cell 84:491-495).

In conclusion, the Hu-B1.219/OB-R is not only expressed in early hematopoietic progenitor cells, it renders these 35 cells responsive to leptin stimulation resulting in cellular proliferation and differentiation into cell types of diverse

hematopoietic lineages. Thus, leptin is a growth and differentiation factor of hematopoietic progenitor cells.

**9. DEPOSIT OF MICROORGANISMS**

5 The following organisms were deposited with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

Strain Designation Accession No.

	Hu-B1.219, #1	75885
10	Hu-B1.219, #4	75886
	Hu-B1.219, #8	75887
	Hu-B1.219, #33	75888
	Hu-B1.219, #34	75889
	Hu-B1.219, #36	75890
	Hu-B1.219, #55	75971
	Hu-B1.219, #60	75973
15	Hu-B1.219, #3	75970
	Hu-B1.219, #57	75972
	Hu-B1.219, #62	75974

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the exemplified embodiments, which are intended as illustrations of individual aspects of the invention.

20 Indeed, various modifications for the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and accompanying drawings. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

25

All publications cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

30

35

International Application No: PCT/ /

**MICROORGANISMS**Optional Sheet in connection with the microorganism referred to on page 54, lines 1-30 of the description**A. IDENTIFICATION OF DEPOSIT**

Further deposits are identified on an additional sheet

Name of depositary institution

American Type Culture Collection

Address of depositary institution (including postal code and country)

12301 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852  
USDate of deposit September 14, 1994 Accession Number 75885**B. ADDITIONAL INDICATIONS** (leave blank if not applicable). This information is continued on a separate attached sheet**C. DESIGNATED STATES FOR WHICH INDICATIONS ARE MADE** \* (or the indications are not all designated States)**D. SEPARATE FURNISHING OF INDICATIONS** \* (leave blank if not applicable)The indications listed below will be submitted to the International Bureau later \* (Specify the general nature of the indications e.g.  
"Accession Number of Deposit")**E.**  This sheet was received with the International application when filed (to be checked by the receiving Office)

(Authorized Officer)

 The date of receipt (from the applicant) by the International Bureau \*

was

(Authorized Officer)

Form PCT/R0/134 (January 1981)

International Application No: PCT/ /

Form PCT/RO/134 (cont.)

**American Type Culture Collection**

**12301 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852  
US**

<u>Accession No.</u>	<u>Date of Deposit</u>
75886	September 14, 1994
75887	September 14, 1994
75888	September 14, 1994
75889	September 14, 1994
75890	September 14, 1994
75971	December 14, 1994
75973	December 14, 1994
75970	December 14, 1994
75972	December 14, 1994
75974	December 14, 1994

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for activating hematopoietic cells, comprising exposing a mixture of hematopoietic cells to an effective concentration of leptin.

5

2. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells are obtained from bone marrow.

3. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic 10 cells are obtained from peripheral blood.

4. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells are obtained from umbilical cord.

15 5. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells are obtained from embryonic yolk sac.

6. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells are obtained from fetal liver.

20

7. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells express CD34.

8. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic 25 cells express Hu-B1.219.

9. The method of Claim 1 in which the hematopoietic cells are exposed to leptin in combination with one or more cytokine.

30

10. The method of Claim 9 in which the cytokine is IL-1, IL-3, IL-6, EPO, steel factor, LIF or GM-CSF.

11. The method of Claim 1 in which the activated 35 hematopoietic cells proliferate.

12. The method of Claim 1 in which the activated hematopoietic cells differentiate.

13. The method of Claim 12 in which the activated 5 hematopoietic cells differentiate into myeloid cells.

14. The method of Claim 13 in which the myeloid cells are macrophages.

10 15. The method of Claim 13 in which the myeloid cells are neutrophils.

16. The method of Claim 12 in which the activated hematopoietic cells differentiate into erythrocytes.

15

17. A method for treating a subject in need of increased hematopoietic cell function, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of leptin.

20 18. The method of Claim 17 in which the subject suffers from immunodeficiency.

19. The method of Claim 17 in which the subject suffers from anemia.

25

20. The method of Claim 18 in which the subject suffers from myeloid deficiency.

21. The method of Claim 17 in which leptin is 30 administered with one or more cytokine.

22. The method of Claim 21 in which the cytokine is IL-1, IL-3, IL-6, EPO, steel factor, LIF or GM-CSF.

35 23. A method for enhancing donor cell engraftment in a recipient comprising administering to the recipient a

therapeutic amount of leptin following donor bone marrow transplantation.

24. The method of Claim 23 in which leptin is  
5 administered with one or more cytokine.

25. The method of Claim 24 in which the cytokine is IL-  
1, IL-3, IL-6, EPO, steel factor, LIF or GM-CSF.

10 26. A method for promoting angiogenesis in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of leptin.

15 27. The method of Claim 26 in which leptin is administered with one or more cytokine.

28. The method of Claim 27 in which the cytokine is FGF, VEGF, EGF, PDGF or TGF.

20 29. A method for promoting vasculogenesis in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutic amount of leptin.

30. The method of Claim 29 in which leptin is  
25 administered with one or more cytokine.

31. The method of Claim 30 in which the cytokine is FGF, VEGF, EGF, PDGF or TGF.

30 32. A method for identifying hematopoietic progenitor cells in a cell mixture, comprising contacting the cell mixture with an agent that binds to Hu-B1.219 protein and selecting the cells bound to the agent.

35 33. The method of Claim 32 in which the agent is an antibody or a fragment thereof.

34. The method of Claim 32 in which the agent is leptin or a fragment thereof.

35. A method for detecting hematopoietic progenitor cells in a cell mixture, comprising:

(a) extracting RNA from the cell mixture;  
(b) contacting the RNA with an oligonucleotide derived from a portion of the sequence depicted in Figure 1A-1E; and

10 (c) detecting hybridization of the RNA with the oligonucleotide.

36. A method for identifying hematopoietic progenitor cells in a tissue, comprising:

15 (a) contacting a tissue with an oligonucleotide derived from a portion of the sequence deposited in Figure 1A-1E; and

(b) detecting hybridization of the RNA with the oligonucleotide.

20

37. A method for detecting cancer, comprising:

(a) contacting a bodily fluid with a specific binding agent for Hu-B1.219 protein; and  
(b) detecting the presence Hu-B1.219 in the fluid.

25

38. A method for treating cancer, comprising administering a therapeutic amount of leptin to a patient suffering from a cancer which expresses Hu-B1.219, to result in suppression of cancer growth.

30

39. The method of Claim 38 in which leptin is conjugated to a growth inhibitory agent.

40. A method for promoting wound healing, comprising  
35 administering a therapeutic amount of leptin to a patient to induce macrophage activation.

9	18	27	36	45	54												
GCG	CGC	GCG	ACG	CAG	GTG	CCC	GAG	CCC	CGG	CCC	GCG	CCC	ATC	TCT	GCC	TTC	GGT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A	R	A	T	Q	V	P	E	P	R	P	A	P	I	S	A	F	G
63	.	72	.	81	.	90	.	99	.	108							
CGA	GTT	GGA	CCC	CCG	GAT	CAA	GGT	GTA	CTT	CTC	TGA	AGT	AAG	ATG	ATT	TGT	CAA
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R	V	G	P	P	D	Q	G	V	L	L	*	S	K	M	I	C	Q
117	.	126	.	135	.	144	.	153	.	162							
AAA	TTC	TGT	GTG	GTT	TTG	TTA	CAT	TGG	GAA	TTT	ATT	TAT	GTG	ATA	ACT	GCG	TTT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
K	F	C	V	V	L	L	H	W	E	F	I	Y	V	I	T	A	F
171	.	180	.	189	.	198	.	207	.	216							
AAC	TTG	TCA	TAT	CCA	ATT	ACT	CCT	TGG	AGA	TTT	AAG	TTG	TCT	TGC	ATG	CCA	CCA
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N	L	S	Y	P	I	T	P	W	R	F	K	L	S	C	M	P	P
225	.	234	.	243	.	252	.	261	.	270							
AAT	TCA	ACC	TAT	GAC	TAC	TTC	CTT	TTG	CCT	GCT	GGA	CTC	TCA	AAG	AAT	ACT	TCA
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N	S	T	Y	D	Y	F	L	L	P	A	G	L	S	K	N	T	S
279	.	288	.	297	.	306	.	315	.	324							
AAT	TCG	AAT	GGA	CAT	TAT	GAG	ACA	GCT	GTT	GAA	CCT	AAG	TTT	AAT	TCA	AGT	GGT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N	S	N	G	H	Y	E	T	A	V	E	P	K	F	N	S	S	G
333	.	342	.	351	.	360	.	369	.	378							
ACT	CAC	TTT	TCT	AAC	TTA	TCC	AAA	GCA	ACT	TTC	CAC	TGT	TGC	TTT	CGG	AGT	GAG
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T	H	F	S	N	L	S	K	A	T	F	H	C	C	F	R	S	E
387	.	396	.	405	.	414	.	423	.	432							
CAA	GAT	AGA	AAC	TGC	TCC	TTA	TGT	GCA	GAC	AAC	ATT	GAA	GGA	AGG	ACA	TTT	GTT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Q	D	R	N	C	S	L	C	A	D	N	I	E	G	R	T	F	V
441	.	450	.	459	.	468	.	477	.	485							
TCA	ACA	GTA	AAT	TCT	TTA	GTG	TTT	CAA	CAA	ATA	GAT	GCA	AAC	TGG	AAC	ATA	CAG
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S	T	V	N	S	L	V	F	Q	Q	I	D	A	N	W	N	I	Q
495	.	504	.	513	.	522	.	531	.	540							
TGC	TGG	CTA	AAA	GGA	GAC	TTA	AAA	TTA	TTC	ATC	TGT	TAT	GTG	GAG	TCA	TTA	TTT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C	W	L	K	G	D	L	K	L	F	I	C	Y	V	E	S	L	F
549	.	558	.	567	.	576	.	585	.	594							
AAG	AAT	CTA	TTC	AGG	AAT	TAT	AAC	TAT	AAG	GTC	CAT	CTT	TTA	TAT	GTT	CTG	CCT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R	N	L	F	R	N	Y	N	Y	K	V	H	L	L	Y	V	L	P
603	.	612	.	621	.	630	.	639	.	648							
GAA	GTC	TTA	GAA	GAT	TCA	CCT	CTG	GTT	CCC	CAA	AAA	GCC	AGT	TTT	CAG	ATG	GTT
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E	V	S	E	D	S	P	L	V	P	Q	K	G	S	F	Q	M	V

Figure 1A

2/19

CAC	TGC	657	AAT	TGC	666	AGT	GTT	CAT	GAA	TGT	TGT	GAA	TGT	CTT	GTG	CCT	GTG	CCA	ACA	702
H	C	N	C	S	V	H	E	C	C	E	C	L	V	P	V	V	P	T		
GCC	AAA	711	CTC	AAC	720	GAC	ACT	CTC	CTT	ATG	TGT	TTG	AAA	ATC	ACA	TCT	GGT	GGA	GTA	756
A	K	L	N	D	T	L	L	M	C	L	K	I	T	S	G	G	G	V		
ATT	TTC	765	CGG	TCA	774	CCT	CTA	ATG	TCA	GTT	CAG	CCC	ATA	AAT	ATG	GTG	AAG	CCT	GAT	810
I	F	R	S	P	L	M	S	V	Q	P	I	N	M	M	V	K	P	D		
CCA	CCA	819	TTA	GGT	828	TTG	CAT	ATG	GAA	ATC	ACA	GAT	GAT	GGT	AAT	TTA	AAG	ATT	TCT	864
P	P	L	G	L	H	M	E	I	T	D	D	G	N	L	K	I	S			
TGG	TCC	873	AGC	CCA	882	CCA	TTG	GTA	CCA	TTT	CCA	CTT	CAA	TAT	CAA	GTG	AAA	TAT	TCA	918
W	S	S	P	P	L	V	P	F	P	L	Q	Y	Q	V	K	Y	S			
GAG	AAT	927	TCT	ACA	936	ACA	GTT	ATC	AGA	GAA	GCT	GAC	AAG	ATT	GTC	TCA	GCT	ACA	TCC	972
E	N	S	T	T	V	I	R	E	A	D	K	I	V	S	A	T	S			
CTG	CTA	981	GTA	GAC	990	AGT	ATA	CTT	CCT	GGG	TCT	TCG	TAT	GAG	GTT	CAG	GTG	AGG	GGC	1026
L	L	V	D	S	I	L	P	G	S	S	Y	E	V	Q	V	R	G			
AAG	AGA	1035	CTG	GAT	1044	GCC	CCA	GGA	ATC	TGG	AGT	GAC	TGG	AGT	ACT	CCT	CGT	GTC	TTT	1080
K	R	L	D	G	P	G	I	W	S	D	W	S	T	P	R	V	F			
ACC	ACA	1089	CAA	GAT	1098	GTC	ATA	TAC	TTT	CCA	CCT	AAA	ATT	CTG	ACA	AGT	GTT	GGG	TCT	1134
T	T	Q	D	V	I	Y	F	P	P	K	I	L	T	S	V	G	S			
AAT	GTT	1143	TCT	TTT	1152	CAC	TGC	ATC	TAT	AAG	AAG	GAA	AAC	AAG	ATT	GTT	CCC	TCA	AAA	1188
N	V	S	F	H	C	I	Y	K	K	E	N	K	I	V	P	S	K			
GAG	ATT	1197	GTT	TGG	1206	TGG	ATG	AAT	TTA	GCT	GAG	AAA	ATT	CCT	CAA	AGC	CAG	TAT	GAT	1242
E	I	V	W	W	M	N	L	A	E	K	I	P	Q	S	Q	Y	D			
GTT	GTG	1251	AGT	GAT	1260	CAT	GTT	AGC	AAA	GTT	ACT	TTT	TTC	AAT	CTG	AAT	GAA	ACC	AAA	1296
V	V	S	D	R	V	S	K	V	T	F	F	N	L	N	S	T	K			
CCT	CGA	1305	GGA	AGG	1314	TTT	ACC	TAT	GAT	GCA	GTC	TAC	TGC	TGC	AAT	GAA	CAT	GAA	TGC	1350
P	R	G	M	F	T	Y	D	A	V	F	C	C	N	E	H	E	S	C		

Figure 1B

1359	1368	1377	1386	1395	1404												
CAT	CAT	CGC	TAT	GCT	GAA	TTA	TAT	GTC	AAT	ATC	AAT	ATC	TCA	TGT			
H	H	R	Y	A	E	L	Y	V	I	D	V	N	I	N	I	S	C
1413	1422	1431	1440	1449	1458												
GAA	ACT	GAT	GGG	TAC	TTA	ACT	AAA	ATG	ACT	TGC	AGA	TGG	TCA	ACC	AGT	ACA	ATC
E	T	D	G	Y	L	T	K	M	T	C	R	W	S	T	S	T	I
1467	1476	1485	1494	1503	1512												
CAG	TCA	CTT	GCG	GAA	AGC	ACT	TTG	CAA	TTG	AGG	TAT	CAT	AGG	AGC	AGC	CTT	TAC
Q	S	L	A	E	S	T	L	Q	L	R	Y	H	R	S	S	L	Y
1521	1530	1539	1548	1557	1566												
TGT	TCT	GAT	ATT	CCA	TCT	ATT	CAT	CCC	ATA	TCT	GAG	CCC	AAA	GAT	TGC	TAT	TIG
C	S	D	I	P	S	I	H	P	I	S	E	P	K	D	C	Y	L
1575	1584	1593	1602	1611	1620												
CAG	AGT	GAT	GGT	TTT	TAT	GAA	TGC	ATT	TTC	CAG	CCA	ATC	TTC	CIA	TTA	TCT	GGC
Q	S	D	G	F	Y	E	C	I	F	Q	P	I	F	L	L	S	G
1629	1638	1647	1656	1665	1674												
TAC	ACA	ATG	TGG	ATT	AGG	ATC	AAT	CAC	TCT	CTA	GGT	TCA	CTT	GAC	TCT	CCA	CCA
Y	T	M	W	I	R	I	N	H	S	L	G	S	L	D	S	P	P
1683	1692	1701	1710	1719	1728												
ACA	TGT	GTC	CTT	CCT	GAT	TCT	GTG	GTG	AAG	CCA	CTG	CCT	CCA	TCC	AGT	GTG	AAA
T	C	V	L	P	D	S	V	V	K	P	L	P	P	S	S	V	K
1737	1746	1755	1764	1773	1782												
GCA	GAA	ATT	ACT	ATA	AAC	ATT	GGA	TTA	TTG	AAA	ATA	TCT	TGG	GAA	AAG	CCA	GTC
A	E	I	T	I	N	I	G	L	L	K	I	S	W	E	R	P	V
1791	1800	1809	1818	1827	1836												
TTT	CCA	GAG	ATT	AAC	CTT	CAA	TTC	CAG	ATT	CGC	TAT	GCT	TTA	AGT	GGA	AAA	GAA
F	P	E	N	N	L	Q	F	Q	I	R	Y	G	L	S	G	K	E
1845	1854	1863	1872	1881	1890												
GTA	CAA	TGG	AAG	ATG	TAT	GAG	GTT	TAT	GAT	GCA	AAA	TCA	AAA	TCT	GTC	AGT	CTC
V	Q	W	K	M	Y	E	V	Y	D	A	K	S	K	S	V	S	L
1899	1908	1917	1926	1935	1944												
CCA	GTT	CCA	GAC	TTG	TGT	GCA	GTC	TAT	GCT	GTT	CAG	GTG	CGC	TGT	AAG	AGG	CTA
P	V	P	D	L	C	A	V	Y	A	V	Q	V	R	C	R	R	L
1953	1962	1971	1980	1989	1993												
GAT	GGA	CTG	GGA	TAT	TGG	AGT	AAT	TGG	AGC	AAT	CCA	GCC	TAC	ACA	GTT	GTC	ATG
D	G	L	G	Y	W	S	N	W	S	N	P	R	Y	T	V	V	M
2007	2016	2025	2034	2043	2051												
GAT	ATA	AAA	GTT	CCT	ATG	AGA	GGA	CCT	GAA	TTT	TGG	AGA	ATA	ATT	AAT	CGA	GAT
D	I	R	V	P	M	R	G	P	E	F	W	R	I	I	N	C	C

2061	2070	2079	2088	2097	2106
ACT ATG AAA	AAG GAG AAA AAT	GTC ACT TTA CTT TGG	AAG CCC CTG	ATG AAA AAT	
T M K K	E K N V T L L	W K P	L M K N		
2115	2124	2133	2142	2151	2160
GAC TCA TTG	TGC AGT GTT CAG AGA TAT	GTG ATA AAC CAT	CAT ACT	TCC TGC AAT	
D S L	C S V Q R Y V	I N H H T	S C N		
2169	2178	2187	2196	2205	2214
GGA ACA TGG	TCA GAA GAT GTG GGA AAT	CAC ACG AAA TTC	ACT TTC	CTG TGG ACA	
G T W S	E D V G N H T	K F T	L W T		
2223	2232	2241	2250	2259	2268
GAG CAA GCA	CAT ACT GTT ACG GTT CTG GCC	ATC AAT TCA ATT GGT	GCT TCT GTT		
E Q A H T V T	V L A I N S I G	-A S V			
2277	2286	2295	2304	2313	2322
GCA AAT TTT	AAT TTA ACC TTT	TCA TGG CCT ATG AGC AAA GTA AAT	ATT ATC GTG CAG		
A N F N L T F	S W P M	S K V N I V Q			
2331	2340	2349	2358	2367	2376
TCA CTC AGT	GCT TAT CCT TTA AAC AGC AGT TGT GTG	ATT GTT TCC	TGG ATA CTA		
S L S A Y P L N S S	C V I V S W	I L			
2385	2394	2403	2412	2421	2430
TCA CCC AGT	GAT TAC AAG CTA ATG TAT TTT	ATT ATT GAG TGG AAA	AAT CTT AAT		
S P S D Y K L M Y F	I I E W K N L N				
2439	2448	2457	2466	2475	2484
GAA GAT GGT	GAA ATA AAA TGG CTT AGA ATC TCT TCA	TCT GTT AAG	AAG TAT TAT		
E D G E I K W L R I	S S S V K K Y Y				
2493	2502	2511	2520	2529	2538
ATC CAT GAT	CAT TTT ATC CCC ATT GAG AAG TAC CAG TTC	AGT CTT TAC CCA ATA			
I H D H F I P I E K Y Q F S L Y P I					
2547	2556	2565	2574	2583	2592
TTT ATG GAA GGA	GTG GGA AAA CCA AAG ATA ATT ATG AGT TTC	ACT CAA GAT GAT			
F M E G V G K P K I	I N S F T Q D D				
2601	2610	2619	2628	2637	2646
ATT GAA AAA CAC	CAG AGT GAT GCA GGT TTA TAT	GTA ATT GTG CCA	GTA ATT ATT		
I E K H Q S D A G L	Y Y I V P V I I				
2655	2664	2673	2682	2691	2700
TCC TCT TCC ATC	TTA TTG CTT GGA ACA TTA ATA TCA CAC CAA	AGA ATG AAA			
S S S I L L G T L	I S H Q R M K				
2709	2718	2727	2736	2745	2754
AAG CTA TTT TGG	GAA GAT CTT CCG AAC CCC AAG AAT	TGT TCC TGG GCA CAA GGA			
K L F W E D V P N P	K N C S W A Q G				

2763	2772	2781	2790	2799	2808
CTT AAT TTT CAG AAG ATG CTT GAA GGC AGC ATG TTC GTT AAG AGT	CAT CAC CAC				
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
L N F Q K M L E G S M F V K S H H H					
2817	2826	2835	2844	2853	2862
TCC CTA ATC TCA AGT ACC CAG GGA CAC AAA CAC TGC GGA AGG CCA	CAG GGT CCT				
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
S L I S S T Q G H K H C G R P Q G P					
2871	2880	2889	2898	2907	2916
CTG CAT AGG AAA ACC AGA GAC CTT TGT TCA CTT GTT TAT CTG CTG ACC CTC CCT					
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
L H R K T R D L C S L V Y L L T L P					
2925	2934	2943	2952	2961	2970
CCA CTA TTG TCC TAT GAC CCT GCC AAA TCC CCC TCT GTG AGA AAC ACC CAA GAA					
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
P L L S Y D P A K S P S V R N T Q E					
2979	2988				
TGA TCA ATA AAA AAA AAA AAA 3'					
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
* S I K K K K					

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HuB1.219	Form 1	2760	2770	2780	2790	2800	
HuB1.219	2	2751	AGGACTTAAT	TTTCAGAAGA	TCCCTGAAGG	CAGCATGTC	GTTAAGAGTC
HuB1.219	3	2751	AGGACTTAAT	TTTCAGAAGA	AAATGCCCTGG	CACAAAGGAA	CTACTGGGTG
					TCTTTGAAGT	CTAATCATA	
		2810	2820	2830	2840	2850	
HuB1.219	Form 1	2801	ATCACCACTC	CCTAACTCTCA	AGTACCCAGG	GACACAAACA	CTGGCGGARGG
HuB1.219	2	2801	GAGGTGGTT	GACTTAGGAA	ATGCTTGTA	AGCTACCGTC	TACCTCGTGC
HuB1.219	3	2801	TCACTACAGA	TGAACCCAAT	GTGCCAACTT	CCCAACAGTC	TATAGAGTAT
		2860	2870	2880	2890	2900	
HuB1.219	Form 1	2851	CCACAGGCTC	CTCTGCATAG	GAACCCAGA	GACCTTTGTT	CACTTGTAA
HuB1.219	2	2851	GCACCTGCTC	TCCCTGAGGT	GTGACACATG	.....	.....
HuB1.219	3	2851	TAGAAGAGTT	TTACATTCTG	AAGAAGG...	.....	.....
		2910	2920	2930	2940	2950	
HuB1.219	Form 1	2901	TCTGCTGACC	CTCCCTCCAC	TATTGTCCTA	TGACCCCTGCC	AAATCCCCCT
HuB1.219	2	2901	.....	.....	.....	.....	2950
HuB1.219	3	2901	.....	.....	.....	.....	2950
		2960	2970	2980	2990	3000	
HuB1.219	Form 1	2951	CTCTGAGAA	CAACCAAGAA	TGATCATAA	AAAAAAATAA	A.....
HuB1.219	2	2951	.....	.....	.....	.....	3000
HuB1.219	3	2951	.....	.....	.....	.....	3000

Figure 2

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HuB1.219_1		10	LWWEVYVITL	AENLSYPTP	WREKLSCHPP	NSTYDYLPLP	50	
HuB1.219_2		11	LWWEVYVITL	AENLSYPTP	WREKLSCHPP	NSTYDYLPLP	50	
HuB1.219_3		12	LWWEVYVITL	AENLSYPTP	WREKLSCHPP	NSTYDYLPLP	50	
HuOBR		13	LWWEVYVITL	AENLSYPTP	WREKLSCHPP	NSTYDYLPLP	50	
MuOBR		14	LWWEVYVITL	ALNIAVYISP	WKEKLECGPP	NTTDDFLSP	50	
HuB1.219_1		60	AGLSKNTENS	NSGYETAVEP	KENSSGTHES	NESKATEHCC	FRSEODRNCs	100
HuB1.219_2		61	AGLSKNTENS	NSGYETAVEP	KENSSGTHES	NESKATEHCC	FRSEODRNCs	100
HuB1.219_3		62	AGLSKNTNS	NSGYETAVEP	KENSSGTHES	NESKATEHCC	FRSEODRNCs	100
HuOBR		63	AGLSKNTNS	NSGYETAVEP	KENSSGTHES	NESKATEHCC	FRSEODRNCs	100
MuOBR		64	AGAPVNASL	KGASEATVPA	KENSSGTIVP	EESKIVEHCC	FGNEOGONCs	100
HuB1.219_1		110	EGAEHTPEGR	RUSTAISLVE	GQDANANIG	CWIKGDELLE	ICWVSLPKV	150
HuB1.219_2		101	EGAEHTPEGR	RUSTAISLVE	GQDANANIG	CWIKGDELLE	ICWVSLPKV	150
HuB1.219_3		102	EGAEHTPEGR	RUSTAISLVE	GQDANANIG	CWIKGDELLE	ICWVSLPKV	150
HuOBR		103	EGAEHTPEGR	RUSTAISLVE	GQDANANIG	CWIKGDELLE	ICWVSLPKV	150
MuOBR		104	ALTENPECKT	LASVVKASV	RQLGVNEDIE	CWIKGDELLE	ICWVSLPKV	150
HuB1.219_1		160	LERNYYKVKH	ILWLPPEVLS	DSPLVPDKGS	FOMVHCNCESV	HGCCCLVPLV	200
HuB1.219_2		151	LERNYYKVKH	ILWLPPEVLS	DSPLVPDKGS	FOMVHCNCESV	HGCCCLVPLV	200
HuB1.219_3		152	LERNYYKVKH	ILWLPPEVLS	DSPLVPDKGS	FOMVHCNCESV	HGCCCLVPLV	200
HuOBR		153	LERNYYKVKH	ILWLPPEVLS	DSPLVPDKGS	FOMVHCNCESV	HGCCCLVPLV	200
MuOBR		154	PFKNYDSKVH	ILGDEPEVID	DSPLPPLKDS	PGVYQCNEL	PGC-ECHVPLV	200
HuB1.219_1		210	PTAKLNDTLL	MCKLTTSGGV	IIFRSPLMSVQ	PINMVKDPDP	LGLIMETIDDD	250
HuB1.219_2		201	PTAKLNDTLL	MCKLTTSGGV	IIFRSPLMSVQ	PINMVKDPDP	LGLIMETIDDD	250
HuB1.219_3		202	PTAKLNDTLL	MCKLTTSGGV	IIFRSPLMSVQ	PINMVKDPDP	LGLIMETIDDD	250
HuOBR		203	PTAKLNDTLL	MCKLTTSGGV	IIFRSPLMSVQ	PINMVKDPDP	LGLIMETIDDD	250
MuOBR		204	PRAKLNDVLL	MYLEITSAV	SQSPZPNLSDQ	PMIIVVKDPDP	LGLIMETIDDD	250
HuB1.219_1		260	GNLKISNSSP	PLVPPPLQYQ	VKYSENSTIV	IREADKIVSA	TSLIVDSILP	300
HuB1.219_2		251	GNLKISNSSP	PLVPPPLQYQ	VKYSENSTIV	IREADKIVSA	TSLIVDSILP	300
HuB1.219_3		252	GNLKISNSSP	PLVPPPLQYQ	VKYSENSTIV	IREADKIVSA	TSLIVDSILP	300
HuOBR		253	GNLKISNSSP	PLVPPPLQYQ	VKYSENSTIV	IREADKIVSA	TSLIVDSILP	300
MuOBR		254	GNLKISNSDQ	TMAFPPLQYQ	VKYLENSTIV	REAA-EIVSA	TSLIVDSVLP	300
HuB1.219_1		310	GSSYEVQVRG	KRLEDGGIGAS	DWSTPRVFTT	QDVYVPPKLI	LTSVGSNVSP	350
HuB1.219_2		301	GSSYEVQVRG	KRLEDGGIGAS	DWSTPRVFTT	QDVYVPPKLI	LTSVGSNVSP	350
HuB1.219_3		302	GSSYEVQVRG	KRLEDGGIGAS	DWSTPRVFTT	QDVYVPPKLI	LTSVGSNVSP	350
HuOBR		303	GSSYEVQVRG	KRLEDGGIGAS	DWSTPRVFTT	QDVYVPPKLI	LTSVGSNVSP	350
MuOBR		304	GSSYEVQVRG	KRLEDGGIGAS	DWSSPOVFFIT	QDVYVPPKLI	LTSVGSNAFP	350
HuB1.219_1		360	HCIYKENKI	VPSKEIVWAM	NLAEKIPQSO	YDWSDHVSK	VTFSENINETK	400
HuB1.219_2		351	HCIYKENKI	VPSKEIVWAM	NLAEKIPQSO	YDWSDHVSK	VTFSENINETK	400
HuB1.219_3		352	HCIYKENKI	VPSKEIVWAM	NLAEKIPQSO	YDWSDHVSK	VTFSENINETK	400
HuOBR		353	HCIYKENKI	VPSKEIVWAM	NLAEKIPQSO	YDWSDHVSK	VTFSENINETK	400
MuOBR		354	HCIYKENKI	ISSKQIVWR	NLAEKIPELQ	YTSIVSERVSK	VTFSNLKATR	400
HuB1.219_1		410	PRGFETYDAV	YCCNEELHH	RYAEIYVIDV	NINISSETDG	VLTKHTCRWS	450
HuB1.219_2		401	PRGFETYDAV	YCCNEELHH	RYAEIYVIDV	NINISSETDG	VLTKHTCRWS	450
HuB1.219_3		402	PRGFETYDAV	YCCNEELHH	RYAEIYVIDV	NINISSETDG	VLTKHTCRWS	450
HuOBR		403	PRGFETYDAV	YCCNEELHH	RYAEIYVIDV	NINISSETDG	VLTKHTCRWS	450
MuOBR		404	PRGFETYDAV	YCCNEELHH	RYAEIYVIDV	NINISSETDG	VLTKHTCRWS	450

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		460	470	480	490	500	
HuB1.219_1	451	TSTIQSIAES	TQQLRYHRS	LYCSDIPSIIH	PISEPKDCYL	QSDGTYECIF	500
HuB1.219_2	451	TSTIQSIAES	TQQLRYHRS	LYCSDIPSIIH	PISEPKDCYL	QSDGTYECIF	500
HuB1.219_3	451	TSTIQSIAES	TQQLRYHRS	LYCSDIPSIIH	PISEPKDCYL	QSDGTYECIF	500
HuOBR	451	TSTIQSIAES	TQQLRYHRS	LYCSDIPSIIH	PISEPKDCYL	QSDGTYECIF	500
MuOBR	451	PTSIOSLVGS	TQQLRYHRS	LYCPDPSIIH	PTSEPRNCVL	QRDGYTCVF	500
		510	520	530	540	550	
HuB1.219_1	501	OPTILLSGYT	MWIRINHSLG	SLDSPPTCVL	PDSVVKPLPP	SSVKAETIN	550
HuB1.219_2	501	OPTILLSGYT	MWIRINHSLG	SLDSPPTCVL	PDSVVKPLPP	SSVKAETIN	550
HuB1.219_3	501	OPTILLSGYT	MWIRINHSLG	SLDSPPTCVL	PDSVVKPLPP	SSVKAETIN	550
HuOBR	501	OPTILLSGYT	MWIRINHSLG	SLDSPPTCVL	PDSVVKPLPP	SSVKAETIN	550
MuOBR	501	OPTILLSGYT	MWIRINHSLG	SLDSPPTCVL	PDSVVKPLPP	SSVKAETIN	550
		560	570	580	590	600	
HuB1.219_1	551	TGLATISWEK	PVEPENNLOE	DIRYGLSGKE	VQWQTYEVYD	AKSKSVSHIV	600
HuB1.219_2	551	TGLATISWEK	PVEPENNLOE	DIRYGLSGKE	VQWQTYEVYD	AKSKSVSHIV	600
HuB1.219_3	551	TGLATISWEK	PVEPENNLOE	DIRYGLSGKE	VQWQTYEVYD	AKSKSVSHIV	600
HuOBR	551	TGLATISWEK	PVEPENNLOE	DIRYGLSGKE	VQWQTYEVYD	AKSKSVSHIV	600
MuOBR	551	TGLATISWEK	PVEPENNLOE	DIRYGLSGKE	IOKKTHEVFD	AKSKSASILV	600
		610	620	630	640	650	
HuB1.219_1	601	PDLCAVYAVQ	VRCKRLLGIG	YWSAMSNPAY	TVMDIKVPA	RGPFWRLHIV	650
HuB1.219_2	601	PDLCAVYAVQ	VRCKRLLGIG	YWSAMSNPAY	TVMDIKVPA	RGPFWRLHIV	650
HuB1.219_3	601	PDLCAVYAVQ	VRCKRLLGIG	YWSAMSNPAY	TVMDIKVPA	RGPFWRLHIV	650
HuOBR	601	PDLCAVYAVQ	VRCKRLLGIG	YWSAMSNPAY	TVMDIKVPA	RGPFWRLHIV	650
MuOBR	601	SDLCAVYIVKQ	VRCKRLLGIG	YWSNWSRPAK	TVMDVVKPA	RGPFWRKMD	650
		660	670	680	690	700	
HuB1.219_1	651	GDTMKKEKNV	TLLWKPPLKN	DSCCSVQRYV	INHTSNGT	WSEDVGNHTK	700
HuB1.219_2	651	GDTMKKEKNV	TLLWKPPLKN	DSCCSVQRYV	INHTSNGT	WSEDVGNHTK	700
HuB1.219_3	651	GDTMKKEKNV	TLLWKPPLKN	DSCCSVQRYV	INHTSNGT	WSEDVGNHTK	700
HuOBR	651	GDTMKKEKNV	TLLWKPPLKN	DSCCSVQRYV	INHTSNGT	WSEDVGNHTK	700
MuOBR	651	GDTMKKEKNV	TLLWKPPLKN	DSCCSVRRVY	VKHRTA4NGCI	WSEDVGNRIN	700
		710	720	730	740	750	
HuB1.219_1	701	FITLWTEQAH	TWTVLAINS	GASVANFNLT	FSWPMSKVNI	VOSLSAYPLN	750
HuB1.219_2	701	FITLWTEQAH	TWTVLAINS	GASVANFNLT	FSWPMSKVNI	VOSLSAYPLN	750
HuB1.219_3	701	FITLWTEQAH	TWTVLAINS	GASVANFNLT	FSWPMSKVNI	VOSLSAYPLN	750
HuOBR	701	FITLWTEQAH	TWTVLAINS	GASVANFNLT	FSWPMSKVNI	VOSLSAYPLN	750
MuOBR	701	LTELWTEPAH	TWTVLAVNSL	GASLVNFNL	FSWPMSKVSA	VESLSAYPLS	750
		760	770	780	790	800	
HuB1.219_1	751	SSCVIVSWIL	SPSDYKLMYF	IEWKLNED	GEIKWLRISS	SVKYYIHHD	800
HuB1.219_2	751	SSCVIVSWIL	SPSDYKLMYF	IEWKLNED	GEIKWLRISS	SVKYYIHHD	800
HuB1.219_3	751	SSCVIVSWIL	SPSDYKLMYF	IEWKLNED	GEIKWLRISS	SVKYYIHHD	800
HuOBR	751	SSCVIVSWIL	SPSDYKLMYF	IEWKLNED	GEIKWLRISS	SVKYYIHHD	800
MuOBR	751	SSCVIVSWIL	SPDDYSILYL	VIEWKLNED	DQIKWLRISS	NVAKYIHDN	800
		810	820	830	840	850	
HuB1.219_1	801	PIPIEKYQFS	LYPIFMEGVG	KPKIINSFQ	DDIECHQSDA	GLYVIVPVII	850
HuB1.219_2	801	PIPIEKYQFS	LYPIFMEGVG	KPKIINSFQ	DDIECHQSDA	GLYVIVPVII	850
HuB1.219_3	801	PIPIEKYQFS	LYPIFMEGVG	KPKIINSFQ	DDIECHQSDA	GLYVIVPVII	850
HuOBR	801	PIPIEKYQFS	LYPIFMEGVG	KPKIINSFQ	DDIECHQSDA	GLYVIVPVII	850
MuOBR	801	PIPIEKYQFS	LYPIFMEGVG	KPKIINSFQ	DAIDHQNDR	GLYVIVPVII	850
		860	870	880	890	900	
HuB1.219_1	851	SSSILLGTL	LISHORMKUL	FWDODVPNPQ	CSWAQGLNFO	KLEGSGFV	900
HuB1.219_2	851	SSSILLGTL	LISHORMKUL	FWDODVPNPQ	CSWAQGLNFO	KFDPGTELL	900
HuB1.219_3	851	SSSILLGTL	LISHORMKUL	FWDODVPNPQ	CSWAQGLNFO	KPFDIL...	900
HuOBR	851	SSSILLGTL	LISHORMKUL	FWDODVPNPQ	CSWAQGLNFO	KPFTPEHLF	900
MuOBR	851	SSSILLGTL	LISHORMKUL	FWDODVPNPQ	CSWAQGLNFO	KFTDTL...	900

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	910	920	930	940	950	
HuBl.219_1	901 SHHH <del>E</del> ISST QGHKGHCGRPQ	GPLHRKTRDL	CSLVYLLTLP	PES <del>S</del> YDPAKS		950
HuBl.219_2	901 GGGWLT.....					950
HuBl.219_3	901 .....					950
HuOBR	901 KHTASVTCGP	LLEPETISE	DISVDTSWKN	KDEMMP <del>T</del> VV	SEESTTDLEK	950
MuOBR	901 .....					950
	960	970	980	990	1000	
HuBl.219_1	951 PEW <del>R</del> NTQE..					1000
HuBl.219_2	951 .....					1000
HuBl.219_3	951 .....					1000
HuOBR	951 GSVCISDQFN	SVMFSEAEGT	EVTYEAESQR	QPFVKYATLI	SNSKPSETGE	1000
MuOBR	951 .....					1000
	1010	1020	1030	1040	1050	
HuBl.219_1	1001 .....					1050
HuBl.219_2	1001 .....					1050
HuBl.219_3	1001 .....					1050
HuOBR	1001 EQGLINSSVT	KCFSSKNSPL	KDSFSNSSWE	IEAQAFFILS	DQHPNIISPH	1050
MuOBR	1001 .....					1050
	1060	1070	1080	1090	1100	
HuBl.219_1	1051 .....					1100
HuBl.219_2	1051 .....					1100
HuBl.219_3	1051 .....					1100
HuOBR	1051 LTFSEGDEL	LKLEGNFPEE	NNDKKSIVYL	GVTISKRES	GVLLTDKSRV	1100
MuOBR	1051 .....					1100
	1110	1120	1130	1140	1150	
HuBl.219_1	1101 .....					1150
HuBl.219_2	1101 .....					1150
HuBl.219_3	1101 .....					1150
HuOBR	1101 SCPPAPCLF	TDIRVLQDSC	SHFVERNINL	GTSSKRTFAS	YMPQFQTST	1150
MuOBR	1101 .....					1150
	1160	1170	1180	1190	1200	
HuBl.219_1	1151 .....					1200
HuBl.219_2	1151 .....					1200
HuBl.219_3	1151 .....					1200
HuOBR	1151 QTHKIMENRM	CDLTV*	.....	.....	.....	1200
MuOBR	1151 .....					1200

Figure 3C

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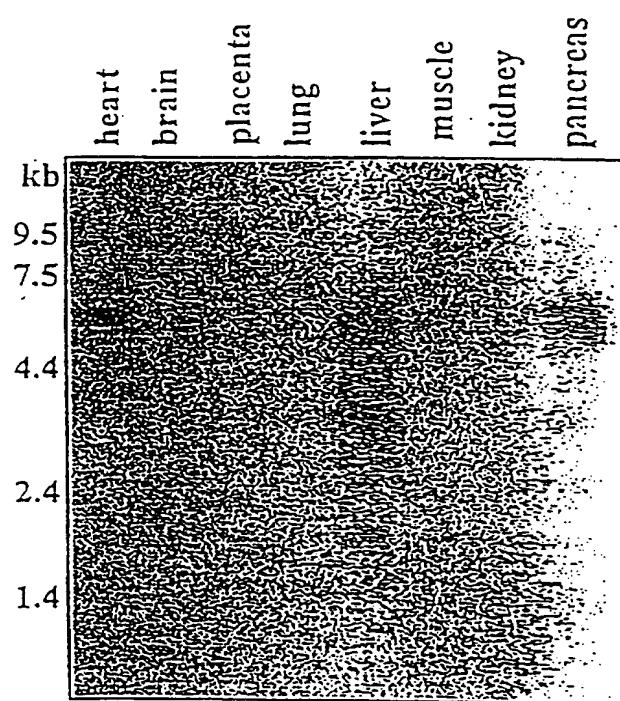
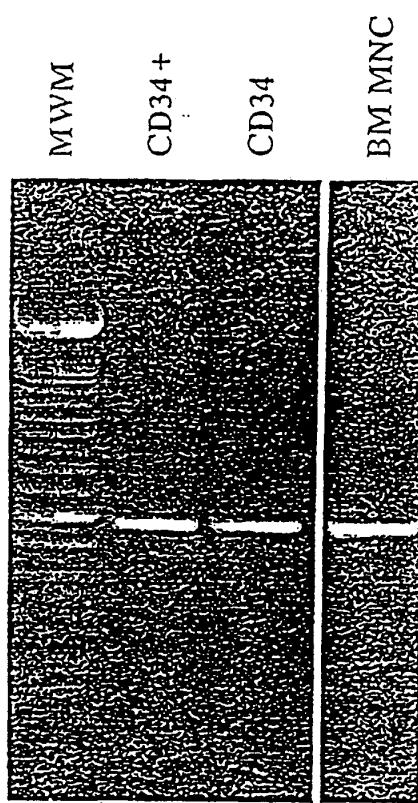
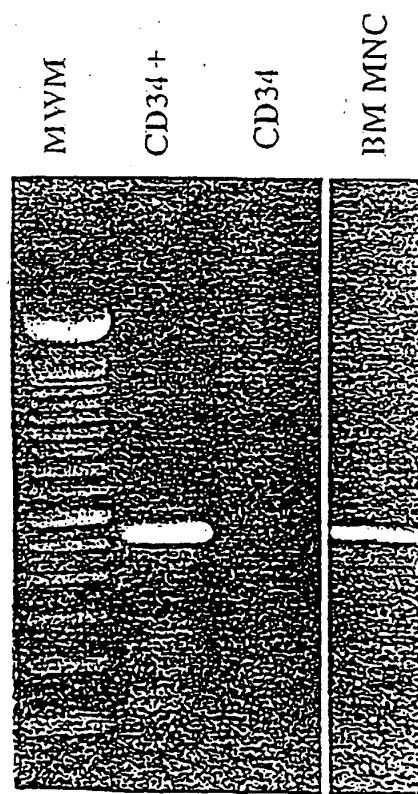


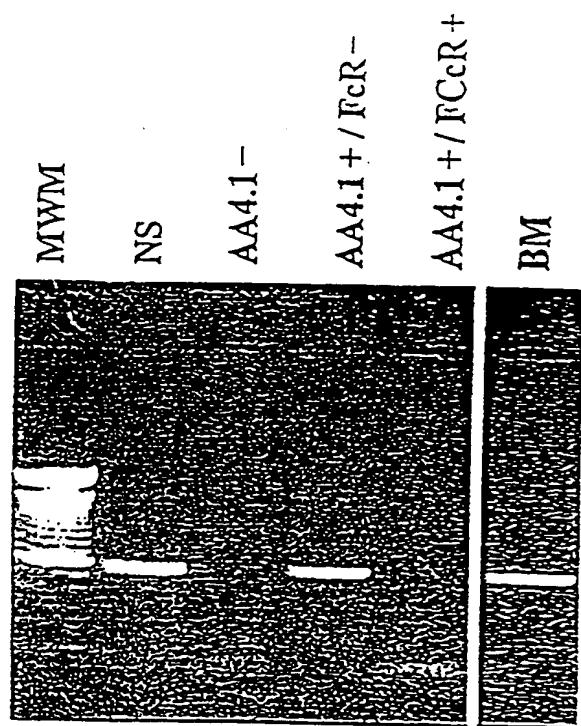
Figure 4

Figure  
5AT<sub>c</sub> - 31.29Figure  
5B

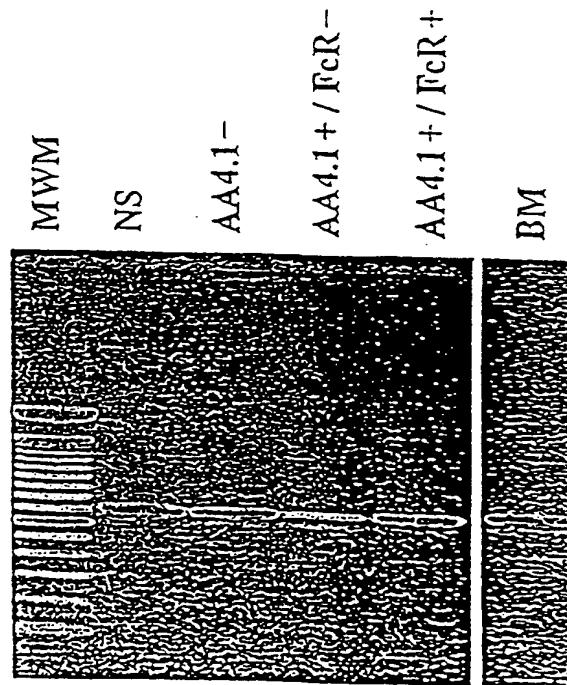
CD34



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Figure  
6A $H_u$ -B1.219Figure  
6B

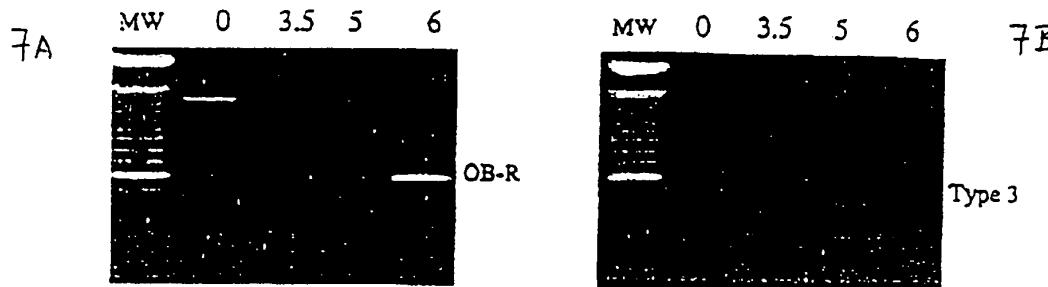
CD34



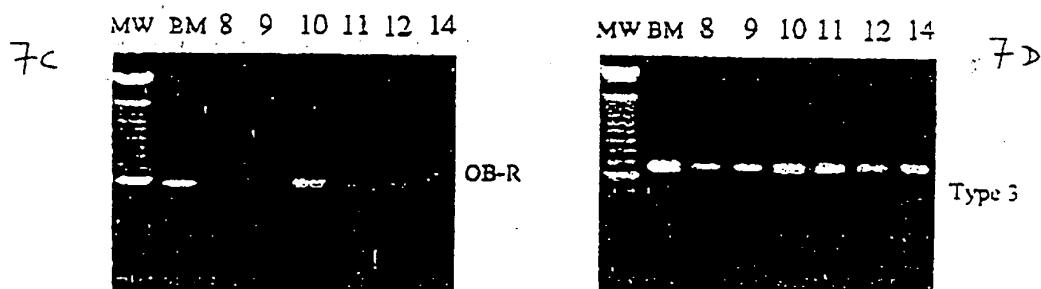
13/19

Figure 7A - 7F

## EB Differentiation From ES Cells



## Yolk Sac



## Fetal Liver

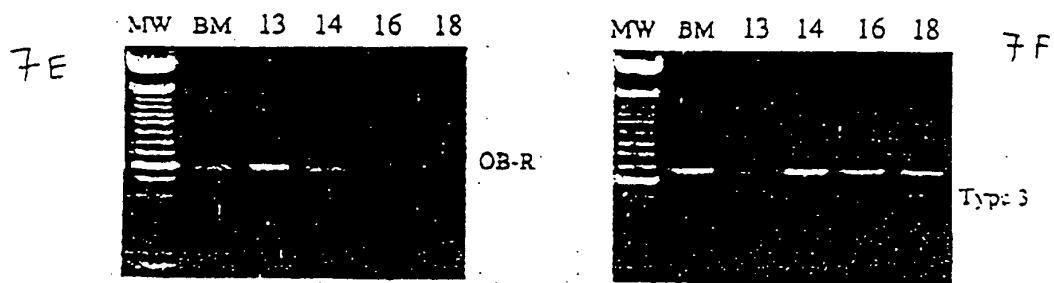


Figure 8A

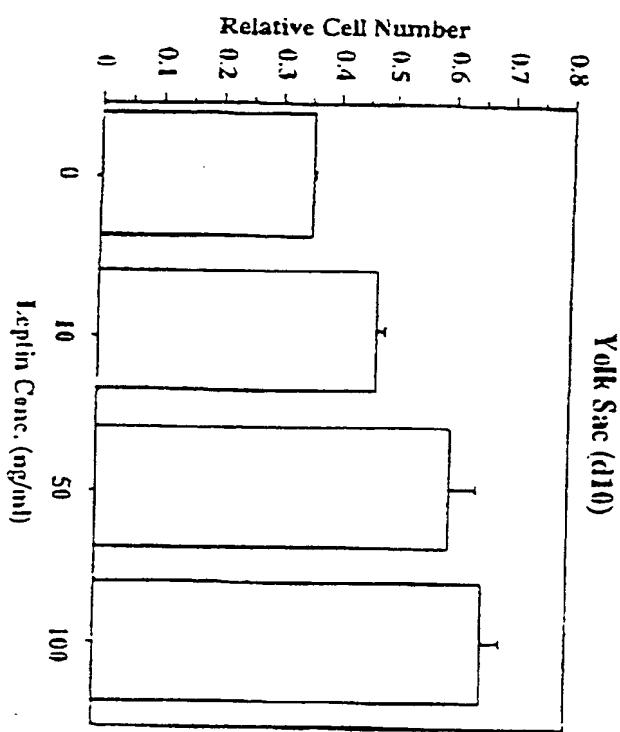
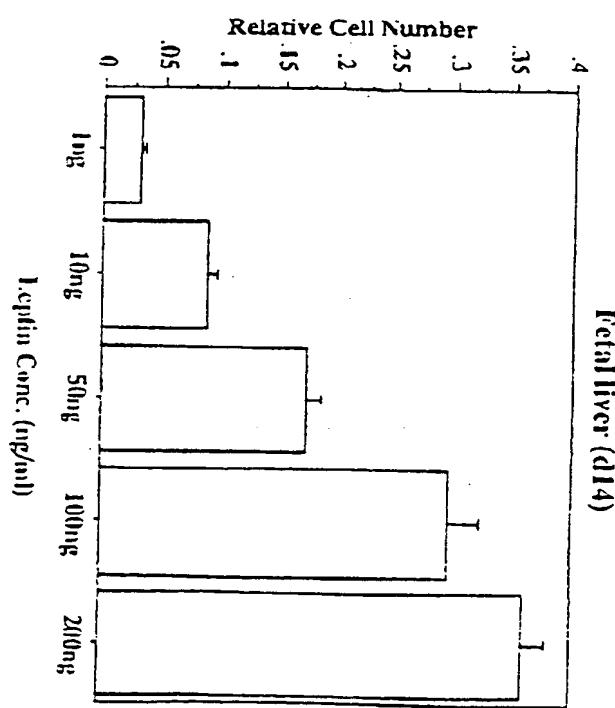


Figure 8B



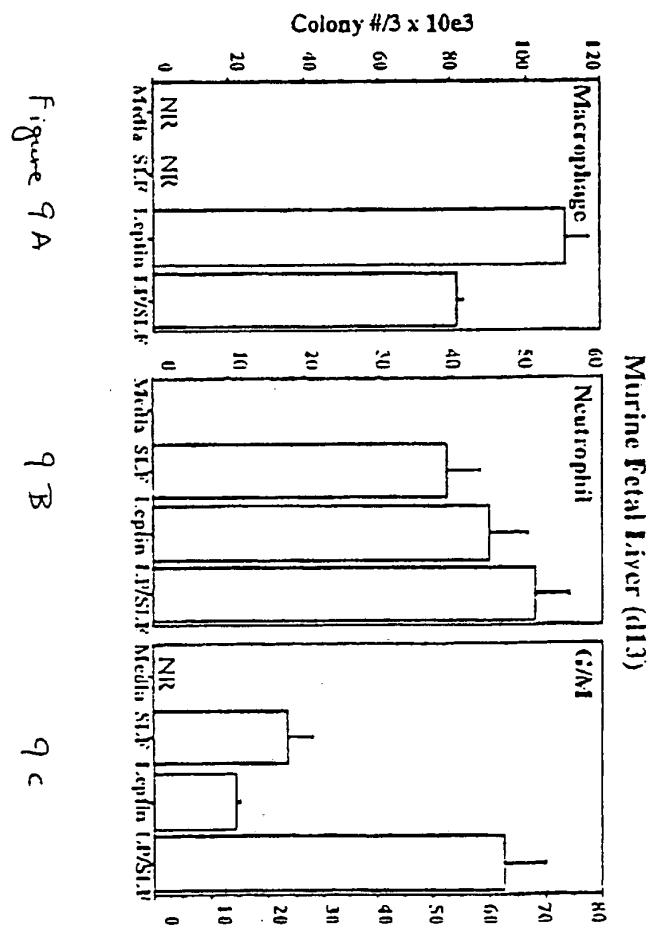


Figure 9 A

9 B

9 C

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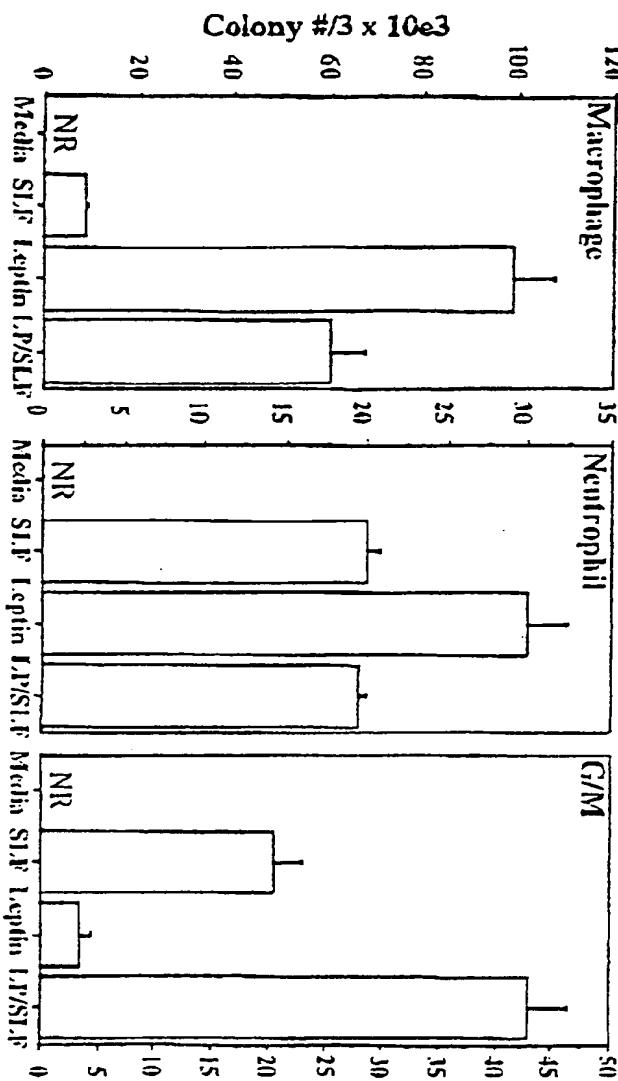


Figure 10 A

10 B

10 C

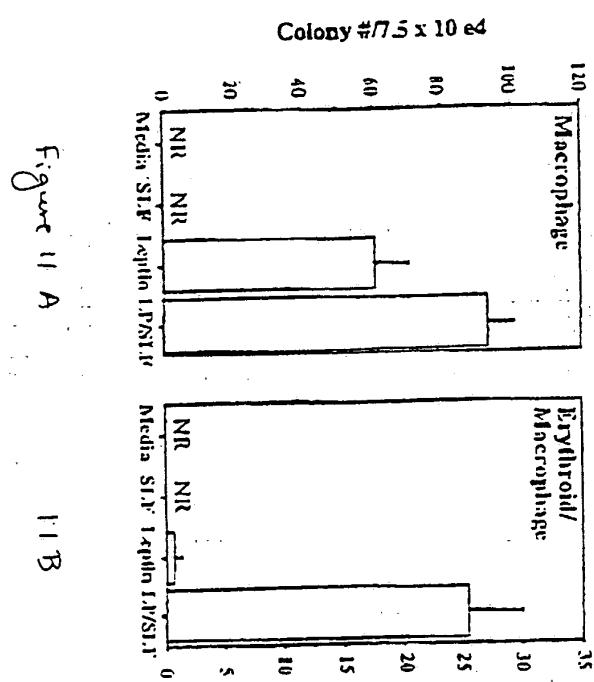


Figure 11 A

11 B

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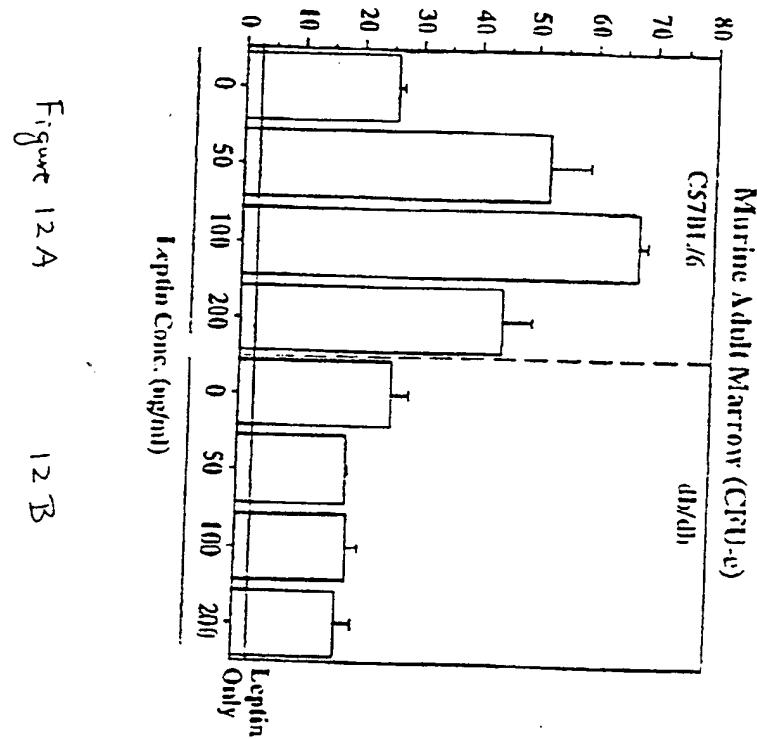


Figure 12A

12B

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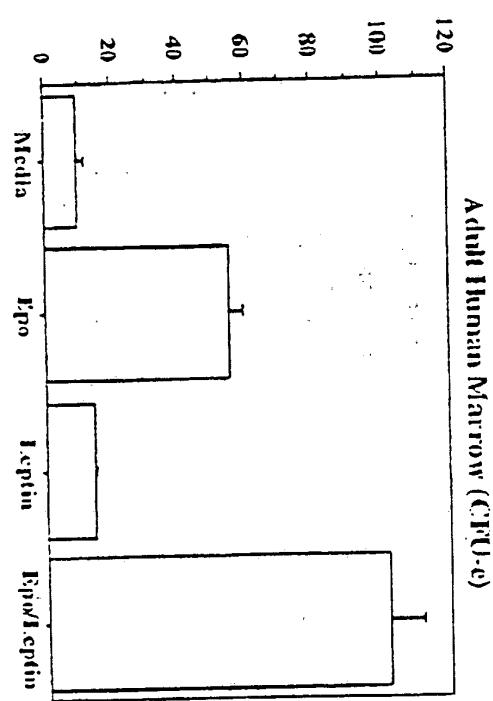


Figure 13

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/00767

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :C12N 5/00, 15/00, 15/09, 15/79; A61K 48/00, 38/00; C07H 21/00  
 US CL :Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 435/320.1, 375, 6, 69.1, 7.2, 172.3; 514/44, 2; 935/62, 55, 34, 70, 65

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

STN, APS, BIOSIS, MEDLINE, CAPLUS, CANCERLIT, EMBASE

search terms: leptin, hematopoietic, cytokine, lymphokine, therapy, therapeutic

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y, P	BENNETT et al. A role for leptin and its cognate receptor in hematopoiesis. Current Biology. 01 September 1996, Vol. 6, No. 9, pages 1170-1180.	1-40
Y, P	GAINSFORD et al. Leptin can induce proliferation, differentiation, and functional activation of hematopoietic cells. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 10 December 1996, Vol. 93, pages 14564-14568.	1-40
Y, P	CIOFFI et al. Novel B219/OB Receptor Isoforms: Possible Role of Leptin in Hematopoiesis and Reproduction. Nature Medicine. May 1996, Vol. 2, No. 5, pages 585-589.	1-40

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

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*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
10 MAY 1997	09 JUN 1997

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer  KAREN M. BAUDA Telephone No. (703) 308-0196
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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.  
PCT/US97/00767

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:**  
US CL :

435/320.1, 375, 6, 69.1, 7.2, 172.3; 514/44, 2; 935/62, 55, 34, 70, 65

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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 :  C12N 5/00, 15/00, 15/09, 15/79, A61K 48/00, 38/00, C07H 21/00		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/27286  (43) International Publication Date: 31 July 1997 (31.07.97)
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(54) Title: METHODS FOR USING THE OBESE GENE AND ITS GENE PRODUCT TO STIMULATE HEMATOPOIETIC DEVELOPMENT			
(57) Abstract			
<p>The present invention relates to the expression of various forms of a novel receptor in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. A variant form of this receptor has been detected in brain cells and shown to bind to the <i>obese</i> gene product, leptin. In particular, the present invention relates to methods of using leptin to stimulate the growth and development of receptor-positive hematopoietic and endothelial cells <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i>. In addition, this receptor is selectively expressed in hematopoietic progenitor cells with long-term repopulating potential. Thus, agents that specifically bind to this receptor may be used to identify and isolate progenitor cells for a variety of clinical applications.</p>			

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**METHODS FOR USING THE OBESE GENE AND ITS GENE PRODUCT  
TO STIMULATE HEMATOPOIETIC DEVELOPMENT**

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5

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The present invention relates to the expression of various forms of a novel receptor in hematopoietic and endothelial cells. A variant form of this receptor has been detected in brain cells and shown to bind to the obese gene product, leptin. In particular, the present invention relates to methods of using leptin to stimulate the growth and development of receptor-positive hematopoietic and endothelial cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*. In addition, this receptor is selectively expressed in hematopoietic progenitor cells with long-term repopulating potential. Thus, agents that specifically bind to this receptor may be used to identify and isolate progenitor cells for a variety of clinical applications.

20

**2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

**2.1. HEMATOPOIETIN RECEPTOR GENE FAMILY**

A variety of diseases, including malignancy and immunodeficiency, are related to malfunction within the lympho-hematopoietic system. Some of these conditions could be alleviated and/or cured by repopulating the hematopoietic system with progenitor cells, which when triggered to differentiate would overcome the patient's deficiency. Therefore, the ability to initiate and regulate hematopoiesis is of great importance (McCune et al., 1988, *Science* 241:1632).

The process of blood cell formation, by which a small number of self-renewing stem cells give rise to lineage specific progenitor cells that subsequently undergo proliferation and differentiation to produce the mature circulating blood cells has been shown to be at least in part regulated by specific hormones. These hormones are

collectively known as hematopoietic growth factors or cytokines (Metcalf, 1985, *Science* 229:16; Dexter, 1987, *J. Cell Sci.* 88:1; Golde and Gasson, 1988, *Scientific American*, July:62; Tabbara and Robinson, 1991, *Anti-Cancer Res.* 11:81; Ogawa, 1989, *Environ. Health Persp.* 80:199; Dexter, 1989, *Br. Med. Bull.* 45:337).

With the advent of recombinant DNA technology, the genes encoding a number of these molecules have now been molecularly cloned and expressed in recombinant form (Souza et al., 1986, *Science* 232:61; Gough et al., 1984, *Nature* 309:763; Yokota et al., 1984, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 81:1070; Kawasaki et al., 1985, *Science* 230:291). These cytokines have been studied in their structure, biology and even therapeutic potential. Some of the most well characterized factors include erythropoietin (EPO), stem cell factor (SCF) or steel factor, granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF), granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), the interleukins (IL-1 to IL-15) and thrombopoietin (TPO).

These cytokines act on different cell types at different stages during blood cell development, and their potential uses in medicine are far-reaching which include blood transfusions, bone marrow transplantation, correcting immunosuppressive disorders, cancer therapy, wound healing, and activation of the immune response (Golde and Gasson, 1988, *Scientific American*, July:62).

Apart from inducing proliferation and differentiation of hematopoietic progenitor cells, such cytokines have also been shown to activate a number of functions of mature blood cells (Stanley et al., 1976, *J. Exp. Med.* 143:631; Schrader et al., 1981, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 78:323; Moore et al., 1980, *J. Immunol.* 125:1302; Kurland et al., 1979, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 76:2326; Handman and Burgess, 1979, *J. Immunol.* 122:1134; Vadas et al., 1983, *Blood* 61:1232; Vadas et al., 1983, *J. Immunol.* 130:795), including influencing the

migration of mature hematopoietic cells (Weibert et al., 1986, *J. Immunol.* 137:3584).

Cytokines exert their effects on target cells by binding to specific cell surface receptors. A number of cytokine receptors have been identified and the genes encoding them molecularly cloned. Several cytokine receptors have recently been classified into a hematopoietin receptor (HR) superfamily. The grouping of these receptors was based on the conservation of key amino acid motifs in the 10 extracellular domains (Bazan, 1990, *Immunology Today* 11:350). The HR family is defined by three conserved motifs in the extracellular domain of its members. The first is a Trp-Ser-X-Trp-Ser (WSXWS box) motif which is highly conserved and located amino-terminal to the transmembrane domain. Most 15 members of the HR family contain this motif. The second consists of four conserved cysteine residues located in the amino-terminal half of the extracellular region. The third is that both the conserved cysteines and the WSXWS box are found within two separate conserved fibronectin Type III (FN 20 III) domains. The members of the HR family include receptors for ligands such as EPO, G-CSF (Fukunaga, 1990, *Cell* 61:341), GM-CSF, IL-3, IL-4, IL-5, IL-6, IL-7, IL-2 ( $\beta$ -subunit), IL-12, IL-13, IL-15 and LIF (Cosman, 1990, *TIBS* 15:265).

Ligands for the HR are critically involved in the 25 proliferation, maturation and differentiation of blood cells. For example, IL-3 promotes the proliferation of early multilineage pluripotent stem cells, and synergizes with EPO to produce red cells. IL-6 and IL-3 synergize to induce proliferation of early hematopoietic precursors. GM-CSF has 30 been shown to induce the proliferation of granulocytes as well as increase macrophage function. IL-7 is a bone marrow-derived cytokine that plays a role in producing immature T and B lymphocytes. IL-4 induces proliferation of antigen-primed B cells and antigen-specific T cells. Thus, members 35 of this receptor superfamily are involved in the regulation of the hematopoietic system.

## 2.2. THE OBESE GENE, GENE PRODUCT AND ITS RECEPTOR

In order to study the molecular mechanism of weight regulation, Zhang et al. (1994, *Nature* 372:425-432) cloned the mouse *obese* (*ob*) gene from *ob/ob* mice, which contain a 5 single nucleotide mutation resulting in an obese phenotype. When an isolated gene fragment was used as a probe, it was shown to hybridize with RNA only in white adipose tissue by northern blot analysis, but not with RNA in any other tissue. In addition, the coding sequence of the *ob* gene hybridized to 10 all vertebrate genomic DNAs tested, indicating a high level of conservation of this molecule among vertebrates. The deduced amino acid sequences are 84% identical between human and mouse, and both molecules contain features of secreted proteins.

15 In an effort to understand the physiologic function of the *ob* gene, several independent research groups produced recombinant *ob* gene product in bacteria for *in vivo* testing (Pelleymounter et al., 1995, *Science* 269:540-543; Halaas et al., 1995, *Science* 269:543-546; Campfield et al., 1995, 20 *Science* 269:546-549). When the OB protein (also known as leptin) was injected into grossly obese mice, which possessed two mutant copies of the *ob* gene, the mice exhibited a reduced appetite and began to lose weight. More importantly, Campfield et al. (1995, *Science* 269:546-549) injected leptin 25 directly into lateral ventricle, and observed that the animals reduced their food intake, suggesting that leptin acts on central neuronal networks to regulate feeding behavior and energy expenditure. This result also provided evidence that leptin-responsive cells might reside in the 30 brain.

Recently, a leptin fusion protein was generated and used to screen for a leptin receptor (OB-R) in a cDNA expression library prepared from mouse choroid plexus, a tissue that lines brain cavities termed ventricles (Tartaglia et al., 35 1995, *Cell* 83:1263-1271). This approach led to the cloning of one form of the OB-R coding sequence, which reveals a single membrane-spanning receptor, sharing structural